

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MARCH 1982

Israel

West Bank Disturbances -- In the wake of the Military Government's decision to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council, Judeaa and Samaria witnessed a stormy weekend with strikes and clashes that led to the death of a 17-year-old Arab youth in Al-Birah, Jerusalem radio reported. The youth was killed and two other demonstrators were injured when IDF soldiers opened fire in an attempt to disperse a stone-throwing demonstration, the radio said. At least seven other Arabs, two IDF soldiers and two tourists were injured in the course of the disturbances, while Arabs in Sinjil village accused Jewish settlers of having killed an Arab youth whose body was found there, the radio noted. According to other radio reports, traders in east Jerusalem staged a commercial strike and students in Rafah demonstrated in sympathy with the inhabitants of Judeaa and Samaria.

Early on 21 March, the IDF closed the Jordan River bridges to the inhabitants of Ramallah, Al-Birah and Nabulus and prevented them from entering or leaving their towns between 0800 and 1600, Jerusalem radio reported. Al-Birah, parts of Ramallah and three refugee camps have been put under curfew. According to the radio, Arab mayors have considered resigning but have hesitated because the PLO has not given them clear directives on the issue. Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah urged municipal workers in Al-Birah not to cooperate with the Israeli committee that replaced the dismissed municipal council. Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice issued an interim order preventing Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon from expelling the dismissed mayor of Al-Birah, the radio said.

Relations With Egypt -- Cabinet ministers meeting on 21 March agreed that the IDF will not withdraw from its current positions on 26 April unless the Egyptians accept the proposals on border demarcation worked out between Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Jerusalem radio reported. According to another radio report, these proposals stipulate that the two countries agree to solve the dispute over the Elat border area in a committee, pending which the situation there will remain unchanged. The radio also noted that the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee would meet in Beersheba on 22 March to discuss the Rafah border.

According to the Jerusalem POST, Defense Minister Sharon told a 21 March rally of Herut Party officials in Haifa that Israel has now reached the limit of concessions to Egypt and that if the two sides cannot agree on the exact border demarcation before 26 April, Israel will be better off staying put in Sinai rather than risking another conflict with Egypt immediately after the withdrawal. However, the POST said, a source close to the prime minister dissociated Begin from Sharon's statement that Israel might refuse to withdraw. Reporting on Sharon's speech, Jerusalem radio quoted the defense minister as saying that if the Egyptians, together with the Americans, deviate from the Camp David accords, Israel will not be bound by the agreements and may extend Israeli law to Judeaa and Samaria. The radio also reported that Begin has sent President Ronald Reagan a message detailing Israel's concern over the future of the peace agreement with Egypt.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ali expressed deep concern over the developments in the West Bank, MENA reported, and Egypt's AL-JUMHURIYAH denounced Israel's insistence on terming the West Bank "Judeaa and Samaria." According to Jerusalem radio, Cairo sources accused Israel of continuing with a considered plan to destroy the trust of the inhabitants of the occupied territories and said the escalation in the West Bank will have very important implications for the autonomy negotiations and the peace process.

Arab Reaction to West Bank Disturbances

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio broadcast the text of an appeal by PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Arab leaders, calling on them to support the "popular uprising" in the occupied territories with all their means. According to Damascus television, Syria and the PLO have agreed to call an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the grave situation in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan. In a televised message, the Syrian foreign minister called on the Nonaligned Movement to support the Palestinians at the UN debate. Meanwhile, the Amman JORDAN TIMES criticized the Reagan administration's "weakness" over the Israeli decision to disband the Al-Birah council.

Egypt

Ratification of Verdicts -- President Husni Mubarak ratified without amendment the verdicts issued by the Supreme Military Court in the case of the assassination of Anwar as-Sadat, Cairo radio reported.

Al-Baz Mission -- Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, will go to Israel on 22 March on an urgent mission on Mubarak's instructions, MENA announced citing AL-JUMHURIYAH. The paper adds that Al-Baz will submit to Israel Egyptian proposals for provisional solutions to continuing differences over border demarcation.

Autonomy Talks, 'Ali Remarks -- Foreign Ministry officials in Cairo said Egypt has asked that the autonomy talks at the expert level be postponed due to Israel's demand that they be held in Jerusalem, Jerusalem radio reported. According to MENA, Israel had rejected a U.S. proposal that the talks be held in Washington. Foreign Minister 'Ali said contacts are underway with the United States and Israel concerning the date and venue of the next autonomy negotiations meeting, MENA added. After a meeting with Mubarak and other top-level officials who reviewed 'Ali's recent discussions in Israel, 'Ali said that in the next few days a date will be fixed for Sharon's visit to Cairo to continue the talks and also to discuss bilateral relations after 25 April.

Ghali Interview -- In an interview with the Bahraini AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said that Egypt's difference with the rejectionist front is one of means rather than ends. Egypt will not sign any agreement unacceptable to the Palestinians, Ghali said. He added that Egypt calls for the return of all occupied Arab territory and a Palestinian homeland but believes these goals can be achieved only through direct negotiations. Ghali said Egypt warmly welcomes restoration of Egyptian-Arab relations, but he emphasized that it will continue the autonomy negotiations and efforts to normalize and expand relations with Israel, and not renege on its pledges to Israel.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iraq launched a successful offensive in the Ahvaz and Susangerd areas, and Iraqi air defense forces shot down an enemy fighter plane, a 19 March communique carried by INA claimed. According to a later communique carried by INA, the offensive escalated to include the Shush and Dezful areas, and Iraqi fighter planes downed two enemy warplanes in a dogfight over the Shush area while air defense forces shot down two Iranian drones. A 21 March communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that 943 Iranians and 141 Iraqis were killed and 16 Iranian and 21 Iraqi tanks destroyed.

Iranian guerrillas on the Karkheh Kur front killed 250 Iraqis and captured 30, according to IRNA. The Iranian Air Force bombed Iraqi assembly points, according to communiques broadcast by Tehran radio on 19 and 20 March. The radio claimed that on 20 March Iraq used two entire divisions in its offensive on one of the southern fronts and that both divisions were completely destroyed and 150 Iraqis were captured. A Guards Corps statement broadcast by the radio claimed that 1,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded on 20 March, while a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio said that at least 400 Iraqis were killed or wounded and 20 tanks were destroyed in repelling a 20-21 March offensive on one of the southern fronts. Iraqi aircraft bombed several Arab villages in the Hamidiyeh District, killing three and wounding two, Tehran radio reported.

'Alwan Remarks, Velayati Interview -- Upon his return to Baghdad after delivering a message to Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's envoy Hamid 'Alwan said Iraq's proposal to form a factfinding committee to determine which side began the war confirms anew Iraq's desire for peace. In an interview reported by Tehran radio, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the announcement that the United States had removed Iraq from its list of embargoes on trade and military sales and indications that the United States will openly sell military equipment to Iraq prove that the United States is Iraq's main supporter and is now trying to prevent Saddam Husayn's downfall by stopping the war in one way or another. Velayati made it clear, however, that Iran will stick to its previous conditions for ending the conflict.

Iran

In collaboration with army commanders and personnel, the Guards Corps discovered a plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic and arrested 25 leaders of a counter-revolutionary group which was planning air raids on Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's residence, causing local riots, bombings and rumormongering, IRNA reported. The group sought to organize self-proclaimed nationalists, monarchists and the banned National Front, a guards announcement reported by IRNA stated. Meanwhile, Supreme Court President 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili announced that 6,886 prisoners were released during the first stage of implementing Khomeyni's amnesty order.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC's 63d extraordinary meeting adopted a total oil production ceiling of 18 million barrels per day (MBD), an OPEC press release carried by Vienna OPECNA declared. This announcement means the end of the oil glut, OPEC conference president Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah told a press conference reported by OPECNA. He added that 12 member countries had agreed on production quotas and disclosed that his own country, the United Arab Emirates, will reduce production from 1.45 MBD to 1 MBD.

Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, announced that Saudi Arabia will cut oil production by half a million barrels per day as of 1 April, Riyadh radio reported. Calling Yamani's announcement a lie, the Libyan agency JANA said Saudi Arabia is bolstering U.S. oil stockpiling and Saudi princes are selling oil privately to increase their personal incomes. Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi told JANA that the Saudi family's subservience to U.S. and Israeli orders is proved by the fact that it did not propose any positive action at OPEC's Vienna meeting, Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland reported.

Libyan-Arab Relations

The Saudi Council of Senior Ulema denounced Libya's Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi as "a heretic, misguided, unjust, a tyrant and a criminal," according to the council's statement on its 7 March meeting broadcast by Riyadh radio on 18 March. Denouncing the Saudi council as "quacks, atheists and receivers of bribes," Tripoli radio accused it of selling licenses to practice what is prohibited to the Saudi rulers, whose "abominations, lies and betrayal of Islam and Muslims" abound throughout history. It condemned the council's silence regarding the "disgusting crimes committed by the debauched Saudi princes" against the people of Saudi Arabia.

According to the Saudi paper AL-MADINAH of 16 March, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak revealed on 14 March that Al-Qadhdhafi had asked him to return to the Arab League on condition that Egypt sever relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. The paper called Al-Qadhdhafi "an agent who failed to implement the plan of his maternal uncles in Tel Aviv."

Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani accused Libya of hostile propaganda and acts of sabotage against Sudan and announced his country's intention to urge the Arab League to take tangible steps against Libya, SUNA reported.

FBIS

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'ARAFAT MESSAGE ON EVENTS IN 'OCCUPIED HOMELAND'

West Bank Palestinians

NC210925 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Message addressed to "our people's masses in the occupied homeland" by PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar -- date not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] Our kinfolk and loved ones in the occupied homeland; oh masses of the courageous upheaval in beloved Palestine: As we and your Arab nation have come to expect, you are now raising the banner of heroism, sacrifice and Arab glory. You are fighting the blatant occupation machine with your strong fists and proud bearing, your firm united struggle, your firm commitment to your revolution and to your just national objectives and your renewed support for the PLO.

Our kinfolk: You are continuing your glorious upheaval, smashing the iron fist of occupation. You are defying the occupation authorities' oppression and terrorism and are crushing their schemes, plans and plots one after the other. Thus, your great popular struggle complements the struggle of your sons and brothers -- the brave fighters in your revolution -- so that we will create together an epic of steadfastness, glory and heroism in this Arab time and so that we will journey together through the tunnels, barriers and minefields which our enemies put before us and the Arab nation. With our glorious struggle and with our dear sacrifices mingled with blood, we will achieve our great objective of removing the occupation from our Palestinian and Arab lands and will impose our national and inalienable rights, including our right to return, to self-determination and to establish our independent Palestinian state on our Palestinian national soil. We will raise together the banners of victories in the sky of dear Jerusalem.

Our kinfolk and loved ones in every town, village and camp in our homeland, Palestine: In the most important arenas and fields of struggle, you are embodying our genuine Palestinian Arab reality, which has imposed itself on the whole world. No one can circumvent this reality if peace and stability are achieved in this region -- peace established on one basis, which is that our people must obtain all their national rights. The enemy and U.S. imperialism have wagered on a false peace which they want to impose by force, falsehood and deception and under the slogans of self-rule, civilian administrations and other weak formats, but you and your sons -- the fighters in the Palestinian revolution -- have sentenced this Zionist-U.S. plan to failure and collapse.

Our kinfolk in the resisting occupied homeland: As you have always been, you are now creating the genuine and bright Palestinian reality which you are imposing with the force of right, will and unshakeable determination. On the rock of this reality you are crushing the links of plotting and you are burying them in the sacred Palestinian land. You will lay down the foundations of our independent state on our Palestinian national soil with its capital, holy Jerusalem.

Greetings to the masses of the upheaval all over our Palestinian land. Greetings to our steadfast and struggling kinfolk in steadfast Arab Golan. Greetings to our struggling people. Greetings to the courageous leaders who are standing loftily on the side of this heroic people. Greetings to all our brothers in our municipalities, trade unions, associations and institutions who are standing with genuine Arab loftiness. Special greetings to my brothers in Al-Birah municipality and to my brother Mayor Ibrahim [at-Tawil].

Arab Kings, Presidents

JN211740 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Mar 82

["Text" of appeal addressed to Arab kings and presidents by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar -- date not given, read by announcer]

[Text] The masses of our people are passing through critical and difficult circumstances marked by the ugliest forms of savage repression and terror under the Zionist occupation. These barbaric acts are taking place as part of an integrated Zionist policy against our people and their national aspirations, demands and rights in an ugly attempt to impose the so-called civilian administration and autonomy and to perpetuate the occupation of our Palestinian Arab land.

The plot has been disclosed with all its dimensions in the past few days when the Zionist enemy escalated its savageness and repression, using its army to confront our people's masses with bullets, in addition to the repressive and arbitrary campaigns, the closure of universities, institutes and schools; the blowing up of houses, the confiscation of lands and shops, the expulsion of leaders and the arrest of male and female strugglers. There is also the enemy's ugly and vicious crime of Judaizing the holy shrines. The decision to annex holy Jerusalem and later on the Golan is an obvious indication of this carefully planned plot against our Palestinian people and Arab nation as well as our holy shrines and beliefs.

Our people have confronted this plot vigorously and valiantly through their popular uprising. What our masses are now undertaking in Palestine and the Golan is a genuine popular expression of this brave confrontation of the Zionist occupation and its spiteful army. These masses are confronting and hero martyrs of our people are falling while receiving with their bare chests the bullets of treason from the Israeli war machine, which derives its power from the unlimited military, economic, political and diplomatic support extended to this entity by the United States.

On behalf of our struggling people I appeal to the Arab leaders and the masses of our Arab nation to adopt a stand on the present challenges and to stand by the side of our masses in their proud and brave uprising and support them with all means of backing and aid. I am confident this appeal on behalf of these masses and our revolution and its struggle will receive positive responses at these decisive and crucial moments in our Arab history.

In conclusion, accept my and our steadfast masses' good greetings. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces

Saudi King Khalid

NC221123 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Message addressed on 21 March to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar -- read by announcer]

[Text] His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the king of Saudi Arabia and president of the Islamic Congress, may God preserve him:

A good and blessed greeting. I address Your Majesty under the present grave and important conditions through which our people are passing in our occupied territory. They are facing the ugliest forms of repression and terror which Israel is waging in implementation of the Zionist policy against our people, their aspirations and national rights.

Our steadfast people in our occupied territory have most bravely, strongly and firmly resisted this comprehensive Zionist conspiracy. They have staged a comprehensive popular uprising and resisted these plans by all available means. They have met the treacherous Zionist bullets with their bare chests. Martyrs and wounded have fallen as a result of these barbaric and savage actions which the Zionist army is carrying out against the masses of our people, heroes, young men, women, students and scientific and educational institutions. These actions included the closing down of universities, institutes and schools. This is in addition to mass arrests, land confiscation and construction of Zionist settlements.

We must here point to the gravity of the Judaization measures being implemented in the holy shrines in holy Jerusalem, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the holy mosque, and the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron.

I address myself to Your Majesty in your capacity as the king of Saudi Arabia, whose government and people have always sided and continue to side with the just question of the Palestinian people and their holy struggle. I also address you in your capacity as the president of the Islamic Congress. I am confident you will spare no efforts to help and support the people of Palestine and their struggle to confront this Zionist occupation of this holy land, which God has blessed, enabling our people to establish their national rights including the right to return to their home, determine their future, establish their independent state on their Palestinian soil and liberate holy Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine.

This blatant aggression and the continue^d occupation of our land and holy shrines would not have lasted were it not for the unlimited military, economic, financial, political and diplomatic support which the Zionist enemy is receiving from the United States. Our people, Your Majesty, are continuing their struggle with all their resources. Thus they stand in this advanced trench as the defender of the Arab nation and Islam. Our struggle will most assuredly receive your backing and support and the backing and support of all our Arab and Islamic nation.

Please accept my greetings and good wishes. God's peace and blessings be with you.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces 21 March 1982

Arab League's Klibi

NC220905 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0705 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Message addressed on 21 March to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar -- read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Brother Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League:

Greetings of the revolution. The occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been witnessing fast and serious developments. The racist Zionist authorities have been carrying out a comprehensive and ferocious suppressive campaign against our steadfast kinsmen in the occupied homeland and against all our national, popular and educational institutions and organizations.

The racist occupation authorities have recently begun implementing a series of serious measures, which included the isolation of Palestinian towns, villages and camps from each other and from the outside world, employing a large number of Zionist troops. These have turned the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into a military barracks in which they have exercised the ugliest forms of savage attacks on our kinsmen and their institutions and utilities, resulting in a number of martyrs and the wounding of a large number of people.

Simultaneously with this ferocious Zionist racist onslaught, the Zionist leaders have threatened to take further aggressive measures designed to achieve the declared Zionist ambitions of expropriating the land and establishing settlements. The authorities are doing this following their criminal decision to annex Jerusalem and then the Golan Heights.

There is no doubt you have been closely following the chapters of the glorious popular epic which our kinsmen are recording in the occupied land in Palestine and the Golan Heights where our valiant and steadfast people, through their comprehensive uprising, are courageously and decisively expressing their absolute rejection of all the Zionist schemes designed to liquidate our national cause and the just rights of our people. Foremost of these schemes is the autonomy and civilian administration plot, which in essence represents a veiled perpetuation of the occupation and its continuation on our Palestinian Arab land.

Our persistent and steadfast people, through their valiant and courageous resistance to the iniquitous occupation machine and its plots, terrorism and suppression, assert their firm and principled adherence to their inalienable national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, self-determination and establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital over their national soil. They also assert their strong cohesion, through national and popular consensus, to the PLO as their sole legitimate representative and leader of their national struggle.

There is no doubt, brother secretary general, that the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland and their practical and stubborn confrontation of the occupation, which is fully backed by the United States -- militarily, economically and politically -- fundamentally constitute a principal basis of the steadfastness of the whole Arab nation and a glorious defense of the dignity, honor and existence of this nation. This makes it incumbent on our Arab nation -- peoples and governments -- to assume its historic national responsibilities toward this escalating and insolent Zionist aggression which, in its dimensions and danger, does not stop at the borders of Palestine and its people but threatens the whole Arab nation.

Under the leadership of their armed revolution our Palestinian Arab people are looking to a genuine Arab position consistent with our noble national traditions that will rise, in its effect, to meet the serious challenges facing us all. I am confident the steadfastness and glorious struggle of our people, which is continuing and daily recording valiant and illustrious examples, will be received by their Arab nation with effective aid and support on all levels.

Accept from me and from our valiant and steadfast people best regards and wishes.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces 21 March 1982

Nonaligned Chairman Castro

NC221023 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Message addressed on 21 March to Nonaligned Conference Chairman Comrade Fidel Castro by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar -- read by announcer]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro: Greetings of the revolution. Dear comrade, you have undoubtedly been following the developments of the serious and fast events in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where the Zionist racist occupation authorities are carrying out a wide-scale suppressive campaign in an attempt to subdue our people and put into effect the Zionist-imperialist schemes.

In the course of this rabid campaign, the occupation authorities disbanded the Municipal Council of the Palestinian town of Al-Birah and flagrantly threaten to disband the other municipal councils. This is in addition to imposing a comprehensive military, economic and cultural siege on the Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Our valiant people resisted this criminal policy with stubbornness and courage by initiating a comprehensive uprising, defying all enemy measures, affirming their unshakable adherence to national rights, declaring their strong support for the PLO and its national political program and firmly rejecting all the Zionist-imperialist schemes which are designed to liquidate their just cause and their inalienable national rights, foremost of which is the civil administration and autonomy scheme.

In their efforts to confront this determination of our Palestinian Arab people manifested in the comprehensive uprising, the occupation authorities opened fire at unarmed citizens, killing some of them and wounding many others. The towns and villages of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have become military barracks. The Israeli occupation authorities isolated the Palestinian towns from each other and from the outside world.

Simultaneously with these savage, fascist and racist measures, the Zionist leaders have followed up their campaign with further barbaric and harsh measures, such as closing colleges, institutions and schools, arresting leaders and a large number of our strugglers as well as disbanding unions and national and popular institutions. This is in addition to the decisions to annex Jerusalem and the Golan to the Zionist racist entity which involves enormous dangers.

These serious and fast developments taking place in the occupied homeland prove the Israeli authorities' desperate attempt on all military, economic and political levels -- fully backed by the U.S. administration -- to go ahead with the implementation of their aggressive plots and schemes, which are consistent in essence and aim with the overall imperialist policy against all the peoples who aspire for freedom and self-determination.

I address you, dear comrade, on my own behalf, on behalf of my brothers in the Executive Committee and on behalf of our people, our masses, our revolutionaries and our strugglers, in your capacity of a faithful friend of our Palestinian Arab people, our revolution, our cause and in your capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Conference and I say we look forward to your support and the support of all of our nonaligned friends. I urge you to take quick action, as we have been accustomed from you, to confront this excessive Zionist-imperialist aggression against our people and their inalienable national rights.

Finally, Comrade Castro, I send you comradely greetings, from myself and from our steadfast masses in the occupied homeland. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Your brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces 21 March 1982

SYRIA, PLO TO CALL UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

JN211745 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] In Damascus, Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Foreign Department, has met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. It has been learned that it was decided to call a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the grave situation in the occupied territory.

PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION COMMAND PRESS CONFERENCE

NC191608 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 1312 GMT on 19 March begins broadcasting a recording of a "press conference held by the Palestinian Revolution Command at noon today"; the venue of press conference is not given. Speaking at the conference are Abu Jihad, alias Khalil al-Wazir, Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Al-'Asifah forces, and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Information and Culture Department. An English translation is given after each passage.

The first to speak is Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh. He says: "In fact, serious events are taking place inside the occupied territories. The first of these events and developments is the Zionist measure which was taken yesterday by declaring the disbandment of the Municipal Council of the town of Al-Birah." He adds that this step taken by the "Zionist occupation forces" is proof of the increasing difficult situation which faced the occupation following the comprehensive uprising, which has been continuing for over 4 months now, "in rejection of the civil administration plan and of cooperation with the civil administration at any level."

'Abd Rabbuh says that all attempts and pressure made by the "Zionist occupation forces" to have the municipalities and national institutions cooperate with the Civil Administration have failed completely. He adds: The disintegration of the village leagues has exacerbated the crisis which faced Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's policy in these villages.

"We can say that the recent measure is an attempt by the Zionist occupation to break the isolation and halt the successive failures which his policy and his strategic plan have suffered in the occupied territories. It is clear that the recent measure of disbanding the Al-Birah Municipal Council is only a step within the framework of more extensive measures to impose collective punishment on an entire people inside the occupied areas. The Zionist enemy has announced that the steps he has taken thus far are part of a more comprehensive plan with the ultimate objective of announcing the annexation of the occupied territories -- the West Bank and Gaza Strip -- and to impose legislative and administrative regimes on these areas just as he has done with regard to the Golan Heights. The disbandment of the Al-Birah municipality is also part of a plan for taking other measures against the other municipalities in the occupied areas as well as against the other national institutions in order to achieve this objective -- namely, to pave the way for the annexation step which the occupation seeks to take."

'Abd Rabbuh adds: The national forces and all the people realize that the occupation authorities will take further measures to suppress the uprising against the Civil Administration and eventually to annex the occupied territories. The occupation authorities are infringing upon legitimate institutions that have been elected by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The authorities are resorting to open suppressive measures which prove the bankruptcy of the occupation policy.

He continues: "It is clear that as soon as this decision [the disbandment of the Al-Birah Municipal Council] was issued, our people declared a general and total strike in all parts of the occupied areas as an expression of the unity of the people's will and their rallying around the national institutions, particularly the municipalities under the leadership of the PLO, their only legitimate representative." As I have said, this step marks the beginning of more serious measures. Our people are determined to fight these measures with all their power. However, there are responsibilities which must be shouldered by all the forces in our area and in the world in order to confront this Zionist policy and the new suppressive measures it has taken.

'Abd Rabbuh says: "At a time when we call on all the peace-loving forces throughout the world as well as on all the international institutions and organizations to adopt a clear and declared stand against these Zionist measures, we, on our part, intend to take steps to discuss this subject at the highest international level, including the United Nations. The PLO has addressed an urgent request to the responsible authorities at the United Nations for this purpose. Meanwhile, we believe that this step, which came in the wake of Philip Habib's tour, took place only on the basis of an American encouragement of Israel to continue its aggressive and repressive policy inside the country and to prepare for committing an aggression against our people and revolution, particularly in Lebanon. We have said that every measure that leads to ending the isolation of Israel will help the Zionist leadership to continue its aggressive policy toward our people inside and outside the occupied areas. On this basis, we adopted our stand regarding Mitterrand's visit to Israel."

'Abd Rabbuh adds: This disbandment measure should prompt France and the other European countries to adopt a clear stand against it on the grounds that an advantage has been taken of France's recent policy to cover up such a measure and other repressive measures which the occupation authorities intend to take.

He goes on to say: "We, in turn, will contact the international institutions and the friendly states -- the nonaligned states, the socialist countries, the Islamic states group and the international democratic institutions -- to have these states and institutions adopt a clear stand on the recent measures taken by the Zionist enemy and to support our people's struggle against the repression, which has now become a collective repression, imposed on an entire people, on the entire occupied areas. For this reason, we emphasize in the name of the PLO that the enemy's recent measures will be faced with the most extensive resistance by our people. Just as all the enemy's attempts have failed to impose the Civil Administration or the village leagues on our people and to falsify their national will, this recent measure against the Al-Birah municipality and the other municipalities will meet the same fate. Our entire people are united and determined, with one will, to continue the struggle irrespective of the sacrifices in order to foil these Zionist measures. Our people emphasize their rallying around the PLO and their struggle on all fronts and in all positions is determined to reply to the Zionist enemy's measures and to frustrate his plans and schemes."

Abu Jihad, alias Khalil al-Wazir, then speaks. He says: Yesterday, the Zionist enemy disbanded the Al-Birah Municipal Council. This is part of a plan to attack the rest of the municipalities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This step is regarded as an escalation of the enemy authorities' "repressive measures" against our people in the occupied territories. The flimsy argument used for disbanding the municipal council was that the municipality was obstructing the interests of the citizens.

Our people immediately moved en masse to rally around the municipal council. Likewise, our people in all the occupied territories adopted a stand and they went on general strike yesterday to express their rejection of this Israeli step. It is the occupation which is blocking the interests of the citizens and the municipalities' business; "it is the occupation which puts great restrictions on the municipalities' actions to serve the citizens: It blocks projects, damages the interests, does not allow the municipality to act in the interest of the masses there." He adds that the occupation does not allow the municipalities to implement housing and construction projects, nor does it allow the funds to come in from the joint committee or any other source as aid to the municipalities.

After giving an account of other Israeli "repressive measures," such as confiscating municipal land, building settlements on it, imposing additional taxes and raiding the houses of the Palestinians, Al-Wazir says: "The Israeli enemy authorities tried to implement their civil government and civil administration plan in the occupied territories. Our people immediately, as soon as Menahem Milson was appointed, declared their rejection of this plan. For this reason, they have been staging their mass uprising for 47 days now, ever since Menahem Milson assumed his Civil Administration, as an expression of their rejection of this administration."

He adds: We have seen how the occupation authorities are confronting the masses in the occupied territories. They have raided the universities, closed the Bir Zayt University and arrested hundreds of students. This is in addition to attacking the Al-Aqsa Mosque. He continues: "Today, during the Friday prayers, huge forces of the Israeli Army surrounded the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Recently, when they wanted to implement the military order in the town of Al-Birah, large army forces detained hundreds of young people and sons of the people in the town of Al-Birah and other towns and thrust them in prisons. They have also confiscated the newspapers and banned their circulation in the West Bank. All the newspapers that are published in Jerusalem were banned from circulating and were confiscated."

After saying that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are resisting the Israeli measures, Al-Wazir adds: "We do not believe that what is happening inside the country is removed from the constant Israeli threats to hit the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon. We have been hearing Sharon, Begin and Shamir uttering constant threats and saying that the PLO has carried out 15 fedayeen operations. In fact, it is the Zionist enemy who is violating the cease-fire continuously."

Al-Wazir then enumerates the Israeli cease-fire violations -- flights over Lebanon, naval patrols off Lebanese shores, artillery shellings, machinegun fire and the blowing up of houses.

Al-Wazir continues his statement at the press conference by saying: This illustrates that the Zionist enemy is the one who is violating the cease-fire. His accusations are only to pave the way for staging his "aggressive operations." However, "the enemy will not be able to achieve what he seeks and the victories against the PLA bases and forces of which he is dreaming. Every fighter is determined to defend his revolution and the people in the south, to play their role in confronting the aggression, and to inflict losses upon the ranks of the enemy -- heavy, very heavy losses. Thank you."

Upon the conclusion of Al-Wazir's statement, questions were asked by journalists and the Palestinian representatives answered them as follows:

A question in English, translated into Arabic says: In your countersteps, do you envisage military operations across Jordanian territory, across the Jordan River?

An unidentified speaker, presumably Al-Wazir answers: "We have declared in the past that the cease-fire issue involves the Lebanese border and that the Palestinian revolution has the right, which is supported by all international charters, and by the international and Arab resolutions, to struggle against occupation and in the occupied territories. Our people are carrying out their military operations inside the occupied territories or from across any other borders. The declaration today by the U.S. spokesman, Fischer, that the cease-fire applies to the other borders is not true. No agreement has taken place with the United States on this issue. Our discussions took place with the representative of the UN secretary general and Security Council president. Our conditions were defined in three points: that the Israeli Army halts its aggressive operations on the ground, air and sea in the Lebanese arena; that Sa'd Haddad be bound by the Israeli decision because he is part of it [the Israeli Army] that our right, which is guaranteed by international law, to resist occupation by continuing our operations inside the occupied territories or from any place we deem appropriate should be secured; and the fourth condition is that we emphasize our previous commitment to the Lebanese Government and successive governments and to summit conferences and the international circles not to stage operations across the Lebanese border or to engage in artillery shelling as long as the enemy does not stage such operations."

The London TIMES correspondent asks: [in English] You say the Israelis have violated the cease-fire. As you know, the Israelis say you have violated the cease-fire by bringing weapons into southern Lebanon since last July. Is it true?

[Answer in English] "First of all, as Brother Abu Jihad said, there was no direct agreement between us and Israel nor with the United States. The agreement was made through the representative of the UN secretary general. Second, the agreement was limited to the point which Brother Abu Jihad had mentioned. There was nothing about strengthening our military abilities or strengthening our forces or the movement of our forces. We have never heard about such an agreement and we would never accept such a term, neither in the past nor in the future. It is our duty, as long as the occupation continues in our homeland, to strengthen our revolution in all fields -- militarily, politically -- and also to continue our struggle in all forms inside the occupied territory through all the ways that are possible for us to continue this struggle.

"For this reason, all the conditions which are invented by the Israelis or by the American envoys are conditions that they are creating now, that they are inventing now, and they are trying to use them as blackmail against our revolution and against other Arab parties. These conditions -- we say and we stress now more clearly -- are completely refused. We will never give them up through blackmailing what they were not able to take through military aggression. That is our position concerning this point. On the other hand, we stress that we continue to strengthen our revolution in all fields, including the military field. This is not only a right for us; this is also our duty, because we are responsible for the future of our people; we are responsible for a great cause -- the cause of liberating our homeland."

[Another unidentified speaker says in English] "Beside that, if you please, we must not forget at all that the Israelis were always launching their war against the Palestinian revolution. They were declaring after every operation that it is a part of the continuous war against the PLO at any time and in every place. This was always their line. And in the years of 1979, 1980 and 1981, they were continuously attacking our bases and our places and attacking the joint forces. Therefore, we have the right to defend ourselves. Now we are hearing the threats of the Israelis by Begin, Sharon, Shamir and by all of them."

HABASH LAUDS PALESTINIANS IN 'OCCUPIED LAND'

NC191410 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 1100 GMT on 19 March carries a live or recorded statement by Dr George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, addressed to the Palestinian people in the occupied land. After extending his heartfelt greetings and salutations to the Palestinian brothers in the occupied land, Habash pays tribute to their steadfastness and hails their uprising. He says that "this patient and persistent struggle gives us confidence in victory."

Habash then addresses greetings to "our heroic kinsmen in the occupied Golan, who have not been shaken by the enemy's threats, terrorism and suppression and who have made the Zionists, and their imperialist and Arab reactionary allies and the whole world understand that the forces of reaction and darkness cannot defeat a people who have a right, irrespective of how big the destructive machine is."

Habash says that the Palestinian people's suffering and sacrifices will not be in vain. He says: "By your sacrifices, steadfastness and stubbornness you have so far foiled the Camp David plot for administrative self-rule. You have foiled all attempts to impose this plot, and in so doing you have increased our confidence in victory and increased our determination to achieve national unity."

He expresses confidence that on the occasion of land day, which will fall soon, all the Palestinian people in the occupied land and all the Arabs will prove that they cling to their land and their determination to continue the struggle until victory.

Habash concludes by saying that despite all obstacles, "we shall be able to liberate Palestine and establish our Palestinian democratic people's state on all the land of Palestine."

PLO OFFICIAL CHIDES KING HUSAYN ON WEAK SUPPORT

JN201518 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Mar (SANA) -- Salim az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, Palestine National Council vice chairman and Fatah Central Committee member, has described the current situation as serious and grave, adding that the Arab nation is currently passing through a fateful stage.

At a press conference he held in Kuwait today attended by Hebron and Halhul Mayors Fahd al-Qawasimah and Muhammad Milhim, Az-Za'nun urged the Arabs to unify their stands and to confront the U.S.-Zionist plot. He added that the only option for the Arab nation is to restore its solidarity and to place the Palestinian issue above all other differences. He called upon the Arab countries, which are not only preventing the Palestinian fedayeen from carrying out their actions across their territories but are also throwing the fedayeen in prisons, to open their borders for the fedayeen to confront the Zionist enemy.

Az-Za'nun said: It is not enough for King Husayn to say that Israel has sent Israeli saboteurs to Iraq and Saudi Arabia; everyone faithful to his Arabism and cause should allow those who are called saboteurs by the enemy to proceed from his territory toward the occupied land.

ON OPEC CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

Conference Opens

AU191410 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1100 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Herbert Hutar report on opening on OPEC conference in Vienna on 19 March -- recorded]

[Summary] "The oil ministers of OPEC, the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries, have been in conference on the 12th floor of Vienna's Intercontinental Hotel since 1000 local time today, deliberating on how to cope with the current oil glut and price slump." This is the second OPEC conference in Vienna since the terror attack in late 1975 and extremely strict security measures have been taken. "The oil ministers maintained silence entering the hotel, but two groups formed at the very beginning of the conference which, according to reports, are negotiating separately. One group is rallied around Saudi Arabia. It comprises those rich oil countries which need only provide for a small population from the proceeds of their oil and includes the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. Venezuela, too, hardly needs to expect any financial difficulties either. Hence those countries can afford to reduce their oil output for some time and to forego super proceeds from oil sales.

The second group has rallied around Libya and primarily comprises the north African oil countries which are offering good but too expensive oil such as Algeria and, above all Nigeria. Within the international oil cartel this group of countries was hard hit by the price slump; despite open and concealed price reductions they are left with their oil and are faced with the problem of how they should finance their ambitious development projects. This is also the reason Libya wants Austria to accept oil as payment for deliveries of additional investment goods. At today's conference OPEC for the first time will also discuss the quantity of the oil extracted. Thus far this problem had been reserved to the governments themselves in the individual capitals of the OPEC member states."

In the recent past OPEC's share in the overall oil output has dropped from 54 percent in 1973 to some 39 percent. It still is questionable whether the planned reduction to an output of 18 million barrels a day will be enough to maintain the current price level because the consumer countries can now use up some of their oil reserves stockpiled under stipulations of the International Energy Agency in Paris. "It still is absolutely open if anything will be decided this time in Vienna and if so what, as is the duration of the conference."

OPEC Nations Lower Output

NC201204 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Vienna, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The 13 member-Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) today set a production ceiling of 18 million barrels a day (MBD) as from April 1 to offset the world oil market glut and maintain the present OPEC oil price structure.

The OPEC chairman, Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, announced the decision early this afternoon. He said 12 of the 13 OPEC countries had committed themselves to reducing their output, while Saudi Arabia would make a separate announcement.

Mr al-'Utaybah said: "This is not the end of the story. We'll be ready to go along the same line if this decision is not enough to meet the market problems."

"We are ready to go lower down," he added.

The OPEC ministers also reduced the price differentials for crudes lighter than the OPEC "marker" crude, the Arabian light quality priced at 34 dollars a barrel. Mr al-'Utaybah said the differentials, taking into account quality and closeness to markets, would be back at the 1978 levels as from today.

Mr al-'Utaybah said he would chair a ministerial committee set up to monitor the evolution of the market. The other members would be Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela.

"I hope this conference is a turning point in the history of the oil industry and will mark the end of the glut," he said.

The OPEC chairman said he felt "very badly" about excessive de-stocking by international oil companies, which he saw as a scheme mounted against OPEC.

He also said he hoped that non-OPEC producer countries would stop cutting their prices.

By doing so, he said, they "harm the market and harm their own budgets." He made a special reference to the North Sea oil producers, Britain and Norway, but stressed that he had not said they were reducing prices deliberately.

Mr al-'Utaybah stressed that Nigeria, which has been particularly hard-hit by the recent North Sea oil price cuts, had subscribed to today's OPEC decision like the other member countries. Asked whether provisions had been made for financial assistance to Nigeria, he said: "Nothing like that" had been discussed.

Saudis Join Production Cutback

NC201233 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Vienna, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani today announced a 0.5 million barrels a day (MBD) cutback in Saudi production, which, combined with an OPEC production ceiling of 18 MBD, will reduce OPEC output to 17.5 MBD.

Shaykh Yamani made his announcement after the chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Mani Ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, of the United Arab Emirates, reported 12 of the 13 OPEC countries had committed themselves to reducing their output.

Ten days ago Saudi Arabia reduced its official production ceiling from 8.5 MBD to 7.5 MBD.

Shaykh Yamani combined the announcement of an additional cut in his country's oil production with a strong warning to Western consumer countries that trying to push down OPEC prices could set the scene for a repetition of the 1979 "oil shock."

"We should not be shortsighted," he said. There could be an immediate gain for industrialized countries through lower oil bills, "but you'll face another crisis some time in the future," he said.

He added that seeking to force down crude prices would jeopardize heavy investments made to promote alternative energy sources and would play into the hands of the major oil companies.

Shaykh Yamani denounced current de-stocking of oil in the West at a "very high rate" as "a conspiracy" against OPEC. He said stocks in industrialized nations were being reduced at a rate of over 4 MBD at the beginning of the year, while Western sources cited figures as low as 1.5 MBD. "We know that this is not true," he said.

Shaykh Yamani said the new Saudi production ceiling of 7 MBD was set for the month of April. If market conditions made it necessary, "we will impose a lower ceiling," he emphasized.

He also said Saudi Arabia was in favor of keeping OPEC prices frozen at the present level until the end of 1983. "We care about the stability of the price of oil and the future of energy supplies in the world," he said.

Final Press Release

LD201554 Vienna OPECNA in English 1457 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Vienna, 20 Mar (OPECNA) -- At the conclusion of the 63rd (extraordinary) meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) here, the following press release was issued:

The members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in Vienna, Austria, on 19th and 20th March, 1982 in the capacity of a consultative meeting. It was then decided to convert this meeting into an extraordinary meeting of the conference. H.E. Dr Mani Ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates and president of the 62nd meeting of the conference, was unanimously re-elected as president.

After having examined the current market situation, it was decided by the conference to reconfirm the price of the marker crude, Arabian light, 34 degrees API, ex ras tanura, at 34 U.S. dollars per barrel, as decided upon in the 61st (extraordinary) meeting of the conference held in Geneva on 29th October 1981, and to take the necessary measures for stabilizing the market. For this purpose, it was decided that as of April 1, 1982, the total OPEC production will have a ceiling of 18 million barrels per day. This ceiling will be reviewed in the next meeting of the conference in the light of the market developments. It was further decided that the price differential for the light and extra light crudes in relation to the marker crude be set at the same levels as in 1978. This new differential will be applicable as of today's date.

The conference also decided to establish a ministerial committee, chaired by the president of the current meeting of the conference, H.E. Dr Mani Ibn Sa'id Al-'Utaybah, and composed of their excellencies heads of delegations of Algeria, Indonesia and Venezuela, which will meet periodically to monitor the market situation and recommend to the conference the necessary measures to be taken.

The conference expressed its sincere gratitude to the government of the Federal Republic of Austria and the authorities of the city of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

KUWAITTURKISH PRESIDENT KENAN EVREN ARRIVES 20 MAR

LD201000 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0856 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Mar (KUNA) -- Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived here today on a 3-day official visit. He was welcomed on arrival by Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, who visited Turkey last September.

The two leaders will have talks which are expected to concentrate on bilateral relations and their development, the Middle East and Palestinian questions, and issues of mutual interest.

Gen Kenan Evren is accompanied by a delegation which includes Foreign Minister Iltis Turkmen, Commerce Minister Kemal Canturk and Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Turgut.

Holds Talks With Amir

LD210800 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0737 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Mar (KUNA) -- Kenan Evren of Turkey and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah of Kuwait held talks here today. The minister of the Amiri court, Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad as-Sabah, announced that the talks "concentrated on bilateral relations between the two sister countries in various spheres and also dealt with the international situation in general." He said that "a cordial atmosphere marked by a spirit of understanding and fraternity prevailed over the talks."

Talks to Press, Departs

LD220936 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0821 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Mar (KUNA) -- The president of Turkey, Kenan Evren, left Kuwait today after a 3-day official visit. At a press conference prior to his departure, General Evren described his visit as fruitful.

General Evren had talks with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, on the development of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest. He said at his press conference that Turkey considers Israeli policy in the region to be the basic reason for the lack of stability in the Middle East. General Evren condemned Israel for annexing the occupied city of Jerusalem and proclaiming it the country's capital, for bombing the Iraqi nuclear reactor and for annexing the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. He said that Israeli policy toward southern Lebanon only contributes to "pouring oil on the fire."

The Turkish president expressed his regret over the continuing war between Iraq and Iran. He said he hopes this "bloodshed," which is draining the resources and energies of the two countries, will stop. He praised "the measures" adopted by the Gulf countries to maintain their security, and stressed that responsibility for maintaining security and stability in this sensitive region is the responsibility of these countries only.

General Evren described his talks with the amir of Kuwait as "positive and cordial," and expressed his confidence that they will contribute to strengthening and bolstering the bonds of cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkish president expressed his conviction that the Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East problem and that peace cannot be achieved except by recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent state, and by Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

He stressed his conviction that no lasting and genuine peace will be achieved in the region without the participation of the PLO, "the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people."

The Turkish president pointed out that his country reduced its relations with Israel to the minimum after the latter annexed Jerusalem in 1980. He said it is clear his country "will not allow these relations to have any influence on its firm support for the Arab and the Palestinian questions." He said Ankara is neutral in the dispute between its two neighbors, Iran and Iraq. He noted that the Islamic Good Offices Committee has so far been able to make any progress in its endeavor to reach a peaceful solution to the war. He denied the existence of training camps for the Iranian opposition in Turkey. He said this "conflicts with the basic principles of the foreign policy" of Turkey.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAMANI ANNOUNCES 1 APR OIL PRODUCTION CUT

LD202020 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs, announced today that the kingdom will cut its oil production by 500,000 barrels a day as of 1 April.

Speaking at a press conference he held following the conclusion of the OPEC oil ministers conference in Vienna today, Shaykh Yamani said that the kingdom is prepared to fluctuate its oil production in the future to keep up with any increase or decrease in demand on the market.

He expressed his belief in the need to maintain the current OPEC oil prices until 1983. He expects, he said, that the drop in the oil prices in the free market will stop now that OPEC has moved to face up to supply and demand.

Shaykh Yamani pointed out that the non-OPEC countries which have participated in price cutting will shortly have to raise their prices to the level of the OPEC oil prices.

He affirmed the unity and cohesion of OPEC saying that claims by foreign news agencies about the collapse of the organization are completely unfounded. He accused the oil companies and other Western circles of working to bring oil prices down through spreading such allegations.

He said that what the OPEC meeting achieved today will help ease the pressures being brought to bear on the OPEC member countries.

SOVIET MEDIA SUPPORT FOR AL-QADHDHAFI ASSAILED

GF211917 Jidda AL-BILAD in Arabic 18 Mar 82 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The colonel of Libya -- who is halfway between collapse and madness -- continues his rials and abuse against both the Arab and Western countries and stops for a while to express his pride if Washington should invite him for a visit.

In this entirely desperate state the man seems like Don Quixote, who spent his life day-dreaming and fighting windmills. By such adolescent behavior he reveals more scandals, which have become widely known in the streets of Libya throughout the past 10 years. The world watches these scandals with scorn because they represent an indelible mark of disgrace.

The Soviet news agency TASS defends Al-Qadhdhafi and the Soviet newspaper IZVESTIYA, which is widely circulated in the communist satellite countries, writes only about his illusory heroism. The colonel is very happy that Moscow speaks about him in Russian and not in Arabic because he has disavowed the Arabic language, has departed from Islam and has chosen for himself a special course through his mental adolescence in the "Green Book."

The Soviets and international Zionism have found in Libya's colonel a most favorable opportunity. He is a hardworking and obedient pupil of communism and Zionism at the expense of his country's wealth, his people's future and also at the expense of those who once hoped that this demented man would achieve something for the Arab challenge against Israel or for the Islamic challenge against communism. But, alas, this will never be done by a man who has sold himself and has gambled away his country's future to the Devil.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON IRANIAN PLANE, GCC

GF211130 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1003 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Riyadh, 21 Mar (WAKH) -- Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation, has announced that the Iranian plane that recently landed in one of the Saudi military bases has been returned to Iran. He said: "The pilot was given the freedom to choose in which country to live."

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH published today, Prince Sultan added that the job of the GCC chiefs of staff is confined to matters pertaining to coordination and organization of Gulf military cooperation. He said security aspects are the speciality of the ministers of the interior, referring to bilateral security agreements recently signed between Saudi Arabia and a number of the GCC countries. Moreover, the Saudi defense minister affirmed that the Gulf countries are able to defend themselves and prevent hostilities against them.

UAE

HUGE GAS RESERVES DISCOVERED IN ASH-SHARIQAH

GF191248 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Mar 82 p 1

[By Raman Kapoor]

[Text] Huge gas reserves, amounting to 10 trillion cubic feet, have been discovered in Ash-Shariqah -- seven trillion cubic feet in the As-Saj'ah field and three trillion in Mawa'id field -- accompanied by condensates.

A dramatic announcement to the effect was made by His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ash-Shariqah, last night.

The latest discoveries were made by Amoco-Sharjah Oil Company. Hydrocarbons were found in the two fields some time ago.

Shaykh Sultan said exports from the two gas fields would begin from May 15. Exploitation operations at the two fields are under way and everything is set for the first shipment.

The bonanza is bound to provide a massive spurt to business and economic activity in Ash-Shariqah, raising new hopes of a development that the emirate has long awaited.

Speaking at the first meeting of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, held at Continental Hotel, Shaykh Sultan disclosed that a pipeline to transport the gas from the two fields to Ash-Shariqah City was under construction.

The gas will be used to generate electricity. Later, similar pipelines will link all the other northern emirates for power generation purposes.

A large number of petroleum engineers, top officials of the Ash-Shariqah government, petroleum experts from Abu Dhabi, Dubai and other emirates, and a number of diplomats were present when Shaykh Sultan made the announcement.

The As-Saj'ah field is 23 miles from Ash-Shariqah. The first well-testing began there about two years ago.

It is understood that Amoco was granted concession by the Ash-Shariqah Government on an area of 243,000 hectares in November 1978. After initial surveys and exploratory drilling, it struck hydrocarbons two years later.

Until now Ash-Shariqah's only oilfield has been the offshore Mubarak. [as published]

In anticipation of the oil boom, there has already been a spurt in the construction activity in Ash-Shariqah. A new thrust to banking and financial operations is round the corner once the exports start off.

Many companies are planning to open branches in Ash-Shariqah. The discovery also means a new lease of life for the steel fabrication industry in the emirate, which till now had been catering for the oil-industry demands of Abu Dhabi. Insurance business will also flourish in view of the heavy financial commitments the hydrocarbon exploitation involves.

Mr Salih al-'Ali, director of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, thanked Shaykh Sultan for inaugurating the session.

The Society has 76 branches all over the world, with headquarters in Dallas, USA. Its members in the UAE number 270, whereas the worldwide membership is 30,000.

On the occasion, Mr Ahmad Rustum, general manager of the Al-Ahliyah Oilfields Development Company, presented Shaykh Sultan with a book, and a rock memento extracted from a geological site in Dallas. The age of the rock is supposed to be 230 million years.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD TO VISIT USSR THIS MONTH

LD191524 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Aden, 19 Mar (ANA) -- 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, general secretary of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister, is to pay a cordial working visit to the Soviet Union for a few days at the end of March. The visit is in response to an invitation he received from the CPSU Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Government. He will hold talks with Soviet officials during the visit.

MUBARAK RATIFIES VERDICTS IN AS-SADAT CASE

NC201910 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The president of the republic today ratified the verdicts issued by the Supreme Military Court in the case of the assassination of leader Anwar as-Sadat without amendment in accordance with what the director of the military judiciary of the armed forces submitted.

The Supreme Military Court handed down its verdicts on 6 March, acquitting 2 defendants, punishing 5 defendants by execution, 5 others by life imprisonment at hard labor and 12 others by temporary prison terms at hard labor for periods ranging from 5 to 15 years. Eight persons were killed in the heinous crime, including leader As-Sadat, and 28 others were injured.

The military prosecution's investigation sessions were conducted in accordance with legal procedures that were praised by the defendants and their lawyers before representatives of international and local press. The convicts will be notified of the verdict ratified by the president of the republic tomorrow morning. The defense will be allowed to submit their appeals within a legal 15-day period.

MUBARAK ENVOY TAKES BORDER OFFER TO TEL AVIV

NC212139 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, will go to Israel tomorrow, Monday, on an urgent mission on President Mubarak's instructions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH, which publishes this report in tomorrow's edition, adds that Dr al-Baz will submit to the Israeli officials Egyptian proposals on provisional solutions for the differences that still exist on marking the borders.

NEW ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS TO BEGIN IN TEL AVIV

Tripartite Contacts Underway

NC201740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that contacts are underway between Egypt, Israel and the United States concerning the date and venue of the next tripartite meeting of the autonomy negotiations.

He said that a decision on this matter is expected to be made in the next few days so that the meeting could be held after 1 week.

The U.S. side had proposed holding the meeting in Washington and Egypt agreed, but Israel turned down the U.S. proposal.

Technical Teams To Meet

NC191945 Cairo MENA in English 1702 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy premier and foreign minister, will confer tomorrow with his senior aides at the ministry to prepare a report on the outcome of his recent talks in Israel and the fourth session of the Egyptian-Israeli higher committee which was held this week in Israel.

'Ali will present the report to Egypt's political group when it meets on Sunday under President Husni Mubarak. The political group comprises the prime minister, the defense minister, the state minister for foreign affairs and the presidential office director for political affairs.

Meanwhile, the technical committee of the Palestinian autonomy negotiations will convene on Sunday in Tel Aviv among the Egyptian, Israel, and U.S. delegations to resume discussing points of difference between Egypt and Israel and prepare a draft plan on the competencies and powers of the autonomy. The Egyptian delegation will be led by Ambassador Tahir Shash. The meeting is one of four to be held at the technical level among the three parties scheduled to convene between March 21 and June.

The time schedule of these technical meetings was agreed upon during visits by Richard Fairbanks, the U.S. envoy, to both Egypt and Israel.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON ISRAELI PALESTINIAN STAND

NC202243 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH demands that 25 April, which is the date of Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai, be the beginning of a new era in the Middle East in which the spirit of a just peace will dominate, the method of armed conflict will be renounced and all energies will be directed toward building the welfare of the peoples in the area.

In an editorial to be published Sunday, the paper affirms that this can only be achieved by a further step following the evacuation from the Sinai -- namely, an agreement concerning the Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

The paper calls on Israel, now that Egypt has courageously opened the door of peace in the area, not to shut this door again but to exploit every available opportunity to live as one of the recognized states of the Middle East.

Under the heading "The Beginning of a New Phase," the paper notes that the first step along this road is that Israel should come to an understanding with the Palestinian people, the real owners of the cause, and with their legitimate elected representatives.

The paper points out that proceeding from this principle Israel must reconsider its attitude toward the West Bank people -- the attitude which has led to the latest disturbances -- because the mutual trust between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides is the beginning of a just solution of the Palestine question. The paper affirms that there will be no peace without solving this question.

MILITARY COMMITTEE TO MEET IN BEERSHEBA 22 MAR

NC212255 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA) -- Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal for holding a meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee in Jerusalem and insisted that it be held alternately between Beersheba and Al-'Arish, according to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

The newspaper MAY reports in tomorrow's edition that Israel has agreed, after Egypt had rejected its proposal, that the meeting be held in Beersheba tomorrow, Monday. Israel had proposed that it be held in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

The paper adds that after it had been decided to hold the meeting in Beersheba, it was decided that the Egyptian delegation, which includes Rear Adm Mushin Hamdi, Ambassador 'Ismat Rida and Fawzi al-Ibrashi, should fly there tomorrow to attend the meeting which will last 5 days.

Sinai To Highlight Talks

NC201745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- Ambassador 'Ismat Rida, chief of the Egyptian-Israeli Relations Department at the Foreign Ministry; Rear Admiral Muhsin Hamdi; and Ambassador Fawzi al-Ibrash will leave Cairo Sunday for Tel Aviv to attend the meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee.

In its new round of talks, the committee will discuss the transfer of the remaining part of Sinai before 25 April and the executive measures for what has been agreed upon concerning the border demarcation in Rafah so that none of the inhabitants, whether Egyptian or Palestinian, will suffer any harm.

FRENCH MFO CONTINGENT ARRIVES IN SINAI

NC212131 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The spokesman of the Sinai multinational force said today that the 30-man French platoon that will participate in the force arrived in [word indistinct] airbase in the Sinai this afternoon.

The spokesman said that more than 90 percent of the total multinational 2,500 soldier force and the observers now deployed in the Sinai can be considered as technically ready to start their work in preparation for completing the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April.

It is worth mentioning that 11 states are contributing to the formation of this force.

ISRAEL REPORTS 8 EGYPTIANS IN ISRAELI JAILS

NC212233 Cairo MENA in English 2225 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA) -- Israel has briefed Egypt of the list of Egyptian prisoners in the Israeli jails.

The list comprises eight prisoners, according to Israeli sources, adding that Israel has released an Egyptian prisoner who was sent to Egypt.

'ALI EXPRESSES REGRET OVER WEST BANK INCIDENTS

NC201540 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that Egypt is following with deep concern the developments in the West Bank. In a statement today on current incidents in the West Bank, 'Ali expressed Egypt's regret.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ON ISRAELI WEST BANK POLICY

NC192330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2258 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) -- In Saturday's issue, AL-JUMHURIYAH denounces Israel's insistence on giving the name Judaea and Samaria to the area which is inhabited by the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and its refusal to recognize the rights of the inhabitants of the occupied territory for sovereignty over their lands.

In its commentary, the paper wonders about the reason for this Israeli insistence. It refers in this regard to Israel's announcement that it intends to liberate the land which it has occupied after 1,000 years by making it truly Israeli. The paper says: Where is the reality and where is the legend?

AL-JUMHURIYAH refers to the events that took place in the aftermath of Israel's decision to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council, the 3-day general strike staged by the inhabitants of the West Bank, the resignation of the Ramallah Municipal Council, Israel's confiscation of three Arabic newspapers, the suspension of studies in the schools, and the closure of shops. The paper says that all of this has happened in the occupied West Bank, which is witnessing an escalation in the tension between the Arab population and the Israeli occupation authorities.

CAIRO PAPERS VIEW WEST BANK DEVELOPMENTS

NC221057 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "The Egyptian Interest in the West Bank," AL-JUMHURIYAH comments: President Husni Mubarak discussed with the political group yesterday the bad conditions in the West Bank and the current conflict between Israeli forces and the Palestinians. The paper draws attention to the fact that the Egyptian interest in events in the West Bank stems from Egypt's keen interest in the peace process and the hope that conditions will not deteriorate so as not to permit Palestinian participation in the autonomy negotiations in the future.

Egypt has emphasized more than once that the Palestinian issue belongs to the Palestinian people alone, and that they have the last word on this subject. So, Israel must know how to deal with the Palestinian people and engage in a dialogue with them on the future of the West Bank and Gaza which would lead to an acceptable formula for autonomy in the two areas.

The paper says that the events in the West Bank do not facilitate a constructive dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis. On the contrary, it might help poison the atmosphere between the two sides and, in the end, lead to closing the door on peace which Egypt opened 4 years ago.

At the end of the article, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that if Israel really wants peace, the first step it should take would be building bridges of trust with the Palestinian people, for there is no lasting and just peace without the participation of this people.

On the same subject, an AL-AHRAM editorial refers to the Israeli Defense Ministry's decision to confiscate Arab papers published in the West Bank because these papers tried to stimulate public sentiments of the Arab inhabitants and called for violence.

AL-AHRAM's comment on this is that an unbiased observer cannot misunderstand the reality of the actions of the Israeli occupation authorities, which are responsible for inciting the general tension among the Arab inhabitants. They were tantamount to calling for counterviolence. Otherwise, what is the meaning of disbanding Al-Birah's elected municipal council, dismissing its mayor and giving his duties to an Israeli officer? Is this not procedural violence and using the powers of the authority to deny what is right and upholding what is false?

What does the Israeli authority expect in return for this provocation other than reactions embodied in their simplest forms in disturbances and resignations as a way of protest? Was that the original intention -- to make the [West] Bank revolt and create unrest -- so that the authority has a pretext for taking security measures to perfect its dominance and impose its political formula on the region?

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM points out that Israel wants to follow up the events with self-styled solutions and put them as a reality before the current and future negotiations. They include the administrative autonomy formula or the limited autonomy in lieu of the full autonomy formula of the text of Camp David accords. They render the Palestinian people a mere racial minority that has no right to land, sovereignty, or self-determination -- which is rejected by the agreements, the Palestinian people, world public opinion, and international decisions.

BUTRUS GHALI DEPARTS CAIRO, BEGINS AFRICAN TOUR

NC220813 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0718 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Dakar this morning for 1-day visit to Senegal during which he will hold discussions with Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse.

Dr Ghali will afterwards go to Conakry for a 3-day visit to Guinea during which he will convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

During his visit, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs will hold discussions with Guinean Foreign Minister Mamadou Tounkara on African problems, bilateral relations, and international issues of common interest.

In Conakry, Dr Ghali will sign an agreement on the formation of a joint ministerial committee to implement the economic cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Guinea's ambassador in Cairo, Abdoulaye Toure, left Cairo aboard the same plane to participate in the discussions which Dr Ghali will hold in Conakry.

AMBASSADOR SHASH TO ATTEND UN CONFERENCE

NC211043 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1008 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Tahir Shash left Cairo this morning on his way to New York on a visit that will last several days. Prior to his departure, Ambassador Shash said that during his stay in New York he will join the Egyptian delegation which is participating in the UN-sponsored International Conference On The Law Of The Seas. The conference opened on 8 March and will continue until the end of April.

It is worth recalling that this is the final session of the conference before the signing of the international sea law, which will define the states' territorial waters and organize the rules under which these states can exploit international waters.

UN DELEGATE TO ATTEND KUWAIT NONALIGNED MEETING

NC201427 Cairo MENA in English 1340 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid will lead Egypt's delegation to meetings of the coordination bureau of the Nonalignment Movement scheduled from April 5 to 8 in Kuwait.

Egypt has received an invitation to attend these meetings as an observing member at the coordination bureau and one of the founders of the Nonalignment Movement.

CAIRO WILL RESUME RELATIONS WITH CHAD SOON

NC192015 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that relations between Egypt and Chad will be resumed in the immediate future. He said that the relations will be resumed at the charge d'affaires level and that minister plenipotentiary Ahmad Abu al-Khayr has been appointed to be the first Egyptian representative to Chad following the resumption of relations between the two countries. It is known that this decision has been made in coordination and consultation with the Sudanese government.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL CALLS FOR AFGHAN CONFERENCE

NC201318 Cairo MENA in English 1220 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) -- The Shura [Consultative] Council Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee today backed a call to hold an international conference in which all the parties concerned, particularly the Afghan militants, participate to determine a peaceful and just solution for the Afghan war.

The committee, meeting under its chairman, Dr Sayyid Nawfal, urged the Afghan militants to close ranks and form a provisional government to prop their struggle at the international arena.

The committee also stressed its support for the Afghan mojahedin movements so as to enable the Afghan people exercise their right to self-determination.

Meanwhile, the secretariat general of the Islamic and Arab Peoples League released a statement calling on the international community and the UN to take up all necessary measures to end the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and implement relevant international resolutions.

The statement urged the Islamic and Arab Government, which did not sever relations with the Kabul Government to speed up the implementation of these measures and form a committee for this purpose.

The statement also urged all Arab and Islamic states to double their aid to the Afghan refugees.

3D ARMY ENDS LIVE-FIRE MANEUVERS 20 MAR

NC202010 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The 3d Field Army conducted maneuvers with live ammunition that lasted for several days; the maneuvers ended today. Participating in the maneuvers were units from various corps representing mechanized infantry, armor, artillery the air force, and airborne troops. The maneuvers involved training in close cooperation, combat techniques in mountainous areas, and weapons effectiveness. The units participating in the maneuvers concentrated on developing the method of handling tanks and [directing] antitank fire from the air and on the ground.

The maneuvers proved the participants' precision in firing at hostile targets as well as their high standard of combat using modern equipment as seen by the timed and accurate destruction of hostile targets using helicopters.

Staff Maj Gen Tahsin Shanan, commander of the 3d Field Army, said that the maneuvers were training activities aimed at testing the competence of the commanders and soldiers in the use of the most modern arms and equipment and to raise the combat abilities of the soldiers by using these technologically advanced weapons.

HUSAYN PROPOSES FACTFINDING COMMITTEE ON WAR

JN181740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) -- Iraq has proposed the formation of a factfinding committee by the Good Offices Committee to determine which side began the aggression and war between Iraq and Iran. This was stated in President Saddam Husayn's message which was carried yesterday by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure in his capacity as chairman of the Good Offices Committee.

President Saddam Husayn said in his message: We propose forming this committee so that facts will be clear to the Islamic peoples and to the world public. The president expressed the hope that the Iraqi proposal will be submitted to the Iranian Government so that the truth will emerge bright and clear and so that the Islamic peoples and world public will be better acquainted with abnormal circumstances which caused the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran.

President Saddam Husayn indicated that last year President Sekou Toure submitted to Iraq an Iranian request to form such a committee and that Iraq agreed to that in a message addressed to President Sekou Toure in April last year.

The president expressed Iraq's great appreciation for the noble efforts exerted by President Sekou Toure and the Good Offices Committee to reach a just and honorable settlement to the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran on the basis of tolerant Islamic principles and international laws and norms.

In a statement before his departure for Conakry yesterday, Hamid 'Alwan said the message includes an important Iraqi proposal which will have an important effect in defining responsibility for the current dispute between Iraq and Iran once Iran responds positively to it.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON VIENNA OPEC MEETING

JN190824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Mar (INA) -- The newspaper, ATH-THAWRAH has called upon OPEC's consultative meeting to chart a plan for organizing production and equilibrating supply and demand in the international oil market.

In a study conducted and published by the paper today on the occasion of OPEC's consultative meeting in Vienna, ATH-THAWRAH calls for confirming the prices that were previously agreed upon by OPEC, adding that all members must abide by these prices. The paper stresses the need to confront the oil glut and to abide by the prices approved by the OPEC conference held in Vienna last September.

In its study, the paper explains that the meeting, which is being held at the behest of Iraq, will not touch on the question of price reduction, which as the paper asserts, must remain unchanged until the end of 1982. The study condemns the harmful practices of the Tehran rulers in reducing their oil prices, adding that these practices have encouraged the major oil companies to ask OPEC members to follow suit. The study asserts that it is the International Energy Agency members and the major oil companies that are benefiting from the status quo in the international oil market.

FRENCH SCIENTISTS SAY N-REACTOR COULD PRODUCE BOMB

NC181536 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 18 Mar (AFP) -- Iraq's projected new "Osirak" nuclear reactor could be used to produce nuclear weapons, French scientists said here recently in a report sent to President Francois Mitterrand.

The Osirak reactor was destroyed in June last year when Israeli Air Force bombers attacked the Iraqi nuclear research center in Tammuz. France has offered to help Iraq rebuild the reactor on condition that Osirak be used for exclusively peaceful purposes.

But in a study carried out following a request by the French Government, five top-ranking French scientists concluded that the Osirak nuclear research reactor could in fact produce plutonium, needed to make the bomb.

In an attempt to ensure that Osirak operations could not be diverted into the production of military weaponry, France initially offered to supply Osirak with "caramel" fuel instead of enriched plutonium. Caramel is made up of uranium oxide enriched with a low quantity of Uranium 235. Unlike the highly enriched uranium (95 per cent of uranium 235) used to produce nuclear bombs and which often serves to fuel nuclear reactors, caramel cannot be converted into N-bomb capacity plutonium.

According to the terms of the initial Franco-Iraqi Osirak contract, Paris agreed to supply caramel in doses of only 13 kgs (28.6 lbs) at a time. These tiny quantities guaranteed France against Iraq diverting the fuel to military use as any diversion would have halted Osirak's continuing operation.

But the French report, prepared by National Centre for Scientific Research workers Georges Amsel and Raymond Sene, and by three other Academy of Sciences members, stressed that though the fuel problem had been resolved, Iraq was nevertheless capable of producing plutonium.

The water-cooled Osirak-type research reactor was one of the most powerful in the world, they said. As such, any matter undergoing irradiation in the test reactor could be replaced by natural uranium in order to obtain plutonium for the bomb.

A U.S. congressional committee has already concluded that international controls for "this type of reactor" are "ineffective," they said.

Osirak had a yearly plutonium production capacity of 3.3 to 10 kgs (6.6 to 22 lbs), the scientists said, pointing out that only 6 kgs (13.2 lbs) of plutonium were needed to produce the N-bomb.

The Soviet Union, Syria, the United States and Saudi Arabia had all expressed concern over the risks involved, which should not be taken lightly, they said.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE No 648

JN171710 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Mar 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes all day today attacked the Iranian enemy's positions, units and targets in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's forces and hardware. All our planes returned safely to base.

Communique No 648 issued this evening by the Armed Forces General Command puts the Iranian enemy's known losses during the past 24 hours at 85 killed and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 1 gun, 1 excavator, 7 stockpiles of ammunition and 1 observation post destroyed in addition to capturing several prisoners and large quantities of weapons and hardware. As for our sacrifices, the communique put these at 18 martyrs in all sectors. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For the sake of glorious Iraq, on behalf of the immortal Arab nation and to safeguard their dignity, pride and brilliant history, our heroic fighters will continue to pound the remnants of the tyrannical Khomeyni clique until it recognizes our just rights and desists from its arrogance and treacherous intentions. The outcome of our armed forces' activities last night and today is as follows:

1. Our forward units clashed with an enemy force opposite their positions in the Ahvaz area, struck it with all kinds of weapons, forcing the enemy to withdraw after sustaining 18 killed and 1 vehicle and 1 gun destroyed. Several of the enemy were taken prisoner and quantities of serviceable weapons and hardware were seized.
2. All day today our daring planes attacked enemy positions, units and targets in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's elements and hardware. All our planes returned safely to base.
3. Our forward units sighted an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the Shush area, struck it with all kinds of weapons, killing 25.
4. Our units pounded enemy positions in the Bostan sector with all kinds of weapons, killing 23 and destroying 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 3 vehicles laden with hardware and 3 stockpiles of ammunition.
5. Seven were killed and two stockpiles of ammunition and one observation post was destroyed in the Abadan area.
6. Six were killed in the Nowsud area.
7. Five were killed in the Dezful area.
8. One was killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
9. One excavator was destroyed in the Mehran area.
10. Two stockpiles of ammunition were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 85 killed and 1 tank, 1 personnel carrier, 4 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 excavator, 7 stockpiles of ammunition and 1 observation post destroyed. A number of the enemy were also taken prisoner and quantities of weapons and hardware were captured.

11. Our sacrifices: Eighteen martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 March 1982

AMMAN REPORTS RIOTS, STRIKES ON WEST BANK

JN201310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Occupied West Bank -- An Arab youth, Ibrahim 'Ali Darwish, was martyred today by the bullets of the Israeli occupation forces, which clashed with Arab citizens in the occupied town of Al-Birah. The citizens continued their public demonstrations today, protesting the Zionist occupation authorities' repressive measure against Arab citizens and heads of municipal and village councils.

Two girls, Iman 'Uthman Barghuti and 'Ayishah 'Abdallah Barghuti, were also wounded by the bullets of the occupation forces in Al-Birah and were taken to the hospital. Israeli radio said that an Israeli soldier was injured when occupation forces tried to disperse the demonstration staged by Arab citizens in Al-Birah.

Reports say that Arab women in the town of Al-Birah thwarted an attempt by the occupation forces to forcibly open the municipal council offices. The women succeeded in their resistance despite the occupation forces' use of tear gas. The Arab women also clashed in a fistfight with the occupation forces. One of the Arab women was injured, but they succeeded in preventing the soldiers from opening the municipal council offices. The women shouted slogans against Israeli occupation.

Arab citizens told AFP that the occupation forces used automatic weapons to disperse the numerous demonstrations that took place in the town of Al-Birah.

Elsewhere, occupation forces today clamped a curfew on the town of Hebron following clashes between Arab citizens and Jewish settlers, who were backed by the Israeli occupation forces.

Large occupation forces are reported to have besieged the offices of several West Bank municipal councils to prevent meetings from being held in them. Several West Bank mayors had planned to meet to declare their position on the resignation of town councils.

The general strike declared by Arab citizens in all towns of the occupied West Bank entered its second day today. Israeli Army units forced open stores in West Bank towns this morning. In the meantime, public demonstrations and processions covered all those towns.

The United States has described Israel's decision to disband the Al-Birah Municipal Council as regrettable.

ISRAELI ACTIONS DENOUNCED IN UN MEMORANDUM

JN210630 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 20 Mar (PETRA) -- Jordan's UN delegate Dr Hazim Nusaybah has circulated a memorandum at the United Nations on behalf of the Arab countries protesting the Israeli occupation authorities' disbandment of Al-Birah's Municipal Council the day before yesterday. The memorandum also protests Israel's repressive measures toward the Arab citizens who have been demonstrating for 2 weeks to protest the confiscation of land, suppressive measures and Israel's support for villages leagues.

AR-RA'Y COMMENTARY ON WEST BANK CONFRONTATION

JN220845 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Last Episode of Uprooting," AR-RA'Y says: It is not new for the Arab Palestinian people to adopt this splendid heroic stand in confronting the Zionist occupation bullets and the siege, oppression and expulsion the likes of which no nation under occupation has seen.

It is not new for our people to record with their sons' blood this heroic stand that has made the occupation authorities lose their senses, collapse completely and finally drop the mask of civilization and democracy, exposing the hateful reality in front the whole world. All this is not new. What is new and what every loyal Arab should be aware of and give appropriate effort and concern to is the vicious Israeli persistence in achieving the final goal of putting the Arab Palestinian people in front of two options: Either to submit to the occupation with their will destroyed or to continue to annihilate and uproot this people until its color, name and identity disappear from all the occupied Arab territory.

Perhaps the most important sign that stresses the occupation authorities' persistence in achieving this goal is the dispatching of armed Zionist settlers to the streets of Arab villages and cities to spread corruption and terrorism in a manner similar to the first Zionist gangs prior to 1948.

In view of all this, we raise our voices loudly to all Arabs: The time is ripe for something more than silence and grievance in response to the massacre our people are being exposed to at the hands of their Zionist executioners.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It is high time for the Arabs to know that what is happening in the Arab land today is the final episode of the conspiracy which is designed to uproot everything which is Arab from Arab land. It is also high time to study what is happening at the highest level and utilize all their potentials to stop the implementation of the Zionist conspiracy before it is too late.

AMMAN DAILY SCORES U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

JN220939 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 82 p 4

[Editorial: "At Your Own Risk"]

[Text] The continuing cycle of Israeli repression, killing and extremism in the occupied West Bank and Gaza will lead inevitably to counter-actions by Palestinians and other Arabs. Some of those actions, such as the resignations of Palestinian mayors, may ultimately facilitate the Israeli aim of fully controlling and administering all aspects of life in the occupied areas. But it is probable that the Arab world will get through this latest round of violence and counter-violence by becoming even more angry with the United States, because we have realised, after so many years of violence and humiliation, that it is impossible to separate American support for Israel from Israeli actions against the Arabs.

It is useful, in this context, and with the West Bank and Gaza under fire, to quote a passage from the latest annual report of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff to the American congress, submitted on February 12. The report stated: "The most dangerous threat to U.S. interests in the (Middle East and Southwest Asia) region arises from the proximity, power and behavior of the Soviet Union."

If the American people and government honestly believe this, then they are setting themselves up for a calamity of incalculable proportions. It is Israeli bullets, financed by American grants, that are killing teenagers in Palestinian lands. It is American support, and apparent acquiescence, that permits Israel to dissolve Palestinian town councils, impose curfews on entire cities and impose a "civilian administration" to change the facade of its military occupation. The ability of the United States to ignore the failure of its policies towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and also to ignore the mounting and powerful anti-American sentiment in the region, in favor of insisting on a threat from the Soviet Union, will be recorded by history as one of the monumental human lapses of this century. The Israeli bullets killing Palestinian children are financed by Washington, not Moscow. This is the reality that numbs the spirit and the humanity of Arabs everywhere. One ignores it only at the risk of having it blow up in his face one day.

PHALANGIST'S AL-JUMAYYIL ON LEBANESE UNITY

NC211630 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Speech by Commander of Lebanese Forces Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil at Mother's Day celebrations held by the Lebanese National Scout Society in Al-Hadath in Beirut, on 21 March -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Today, on the occasion of Mother's Day and Family Day, we are thinking of all Lebanese families, mothers and fathers, who are in the liberated Lebanese area or the occupied area. They are Lebanese mothers and fathers regardless of where they are. I extend my appeal, speech, hopes and aspirations to all Lebanese mothers and fathers, particularly those in the occupied Lebanese areas. We have something to tell them and want them to hear me in order to reach an understanding, because these days whenever these mothers and fathers leave home, they do not know whether or not they will return to their children. They leave home for work and do not know whether or not they will arrive at work. They are living in their homes and do not know when the foreigners will disfigure and kill them for reasons that have nothing to do with real Lebanese aims.

Today, I extend my appeal to these mothers and fathers to ask them to participate with us in shouldering the national responsibilities that every Lebanese citizen must shoulder. I ask them to rally around a purely Lebanese decision in support of Lebanon. The foreigners must no longer have the right or room to offend the pride of our fathers, mothers and children. [applause] I extend my appeal to the Lebanese mothers and fathers who have children who are dying as are ours are and whose houses are being destroyed as are ours. I tell them that we are not silly, ignorant or far from the truth. We are suffering as much as they are, paying the price they are paying and are extending our hands for the second, third and fourth time as we have done in the past in order to close our ranks, unite and reach an understanding on one decision: to deliver Lebanon from this ordeal, which the Syrians and Palestinians are trying to impose on us. All countries are colluding with the Syrians and Palestinians to prolong the Lebanese crisis.

I extend my appeal to all our Lebanese brothers in the occupied area to reassure them and to remove from their heads any doubts, fear, ambiguity or effects of brainwashing and to emphasize to them that we are their natural allies and original partners in our common Lebanese life. We ask them to understand this fact and that the Syrians and Palestinians are trying to disturb our common life together to ensure the continuation of the Syrian and Palestinian occupation of parts of Lebanon. We would like to address the Muslim Lebanese people to tell them that after all this suffering and bitter life in their occupied area, they must have begun to understand that we are their genuine allies. These Lebanese have begun to distinguish between their real enemy and original partner. We appeal to the Lebanese Muslims to understand the truth of our initiatives, decisions and intentions. We tell them that all the initiatives we have made to them were distorted by the foreigners. These Lebanese were led by Palestinian brainwashing and deceived into believing that we are seeking partition, establishing a Christian national homeland, harbor ill will toward them and do not want to cooperate with them.

The Lebanese Muslims are beginning to understand these facts. We ask them to have the courage to be convinced of what we are telling them and understand that we are their real friends, allies and partners. They must understand that the foreigners are trying to prolong this situation, because the continuation of this situation enables the foreigners to continue their blackmailing at the local and international levels. [applause]

Today, we again approach you seeking the possibility of reaching a decision to avert any future catastrophe or crisis in Lebanon. The Arabs think of the [1967 defeat] in terms of eliminating the effects of the aggression. Instead of thinking in the future of eliminating the effects of another catastrophe, let us reach understanding together to prevent any aggression on Lebanon. [applause]

I tell the Lebanese Muslims that after the catastrophe all that the Arabs are thinking of is how to emerge from it. The difference between the Arabs and us is that they can bear one, two, three, four, five and even more defeats, but, as Lebanese, we cannot. We are 2 million people and cannot tolerate 100,000 deaths, both Muslims and Christians, every 10 years.

I appeal to all Lebanese Muslims with all honesty and sincerity to cooperate with us to prevent any action against Lebanese territory. I appeal to you to try to reach an understanding to place the foreigners where they must be and prevent them from harming Lebanon. They have harmed us more than enough for 7 years, so let us prevent them from harming us more. We call on you to look to the future with all hope, optimism and faith in our land and in our 6,000-year heritage. We call on you to enable us preserve this heritage together through the legitimate government, even though it is not capable of doing so. Let us march together. You have your own circumstances which we understand and are ready to respect. But, at least, we must be together as one people with our legitimate government to be able to take one decision. Then we can overcome all the dangers surrounding us and Lebanon will be strong. [applause]

Do not believe the misleading information media in your area. Do not believe the attempts to blackmail you. You must have greater belief in the Lebanese than in the foreigners. These foreigners did not care to ask about the Golan or Palestine. I, however, am asking about the Lebanese who mean to me as much as they mean to [words indistinct]. [applause]

The foreigners are detonating boobytrapped cars in your areas as well as in mine. Do not believe those who tell you that we are detonating these cars. Do not believe those who tell you that we are the cause of your tragedy. The cause of the tragedy is the foreigners who have nothing to lose and who will not return to their country after 2,000 years. These are the causes of your tragedy. [applause]

We would like to tell the Lebanese Muslims that the entire Middle East area is on the top of a volcano, not because of me or in support of me. The entire area is seething. Let us be prepared so that should the volcano erupt, we will be ready to face the situation with one Lebanese decision, both Muslims and Christians, together with the legitimate government, which we must stop attacking. Now that the destiny of the homeland is threatened, let all the sons of Lebanon rally around it. Now that our fate is threatened, there is no room for recriminations and trivial sensitivities to prevent us from taking a unified decision. This is our appeal today to every Lebanese Muslim and to every Lebanese official: To unify and close our ranks and face the West, the Arabs and everyone with one Lebanese decision.

It is high time that we unite in this particular stage we are passing through. The Muslims in Lebanon are required to reject the brainwashing they are going through. We are raising our voice clearly and frankly. We are giving things their real names. We assure the Lebanese Muslims that we will stand by them and we are sure that they will stand by us, because we cannot separate from each other. They cannot throw us into the sea and we are not thinking of living without them. So, they must not imagine that a few Palestinians can throw us into the sea. This land is ours and we have lived here for 6,000 years. Refugees and displaced people will not be able to evict us from our 6,000-year-old roots. [applause]

We renew our call and appeals to our Muslim partners to stand by us. If they cannot do this in public because they are living under the yoke of occupation, they must know and have confidence that any decision we make these days is made in their names and on their behalf. We are ready to tell them about our decisions and reach an understanding about our decisions in order to get rid of the occupation.

If the Palestinians and Syrians understand our appeals to the Lebanese Muslims, we also extend our hands to them. The possibilities and intention for understanding are available, but on the basis of Lebanon's absolute and total independence and sovereignty over its 10,452 square km area. [applause] The possibility of understanding between us and them exists to put an end to the partition they are trying to impose on us. The Syrians and Palestinians are imposing partition on us. Neither we nor the Lebanese Muslims divided the market area. It is the Syrians and Palestinians who are dividing that area. If they want to reach understanding with us to remove partitions and all their measures preventing the Lebanese from talking together, we are ready. Are they ready to turn over a new leaf according to the initiative we made on Phalangist Day and return to their country, return our sovereignty and land and turn over a new leaf in relations? Could the Syrians and Palestinians put an end to all their efforts to partition Lebanon? Could they refrain from their acts of intimidation and torture of the Lebanese Muslims to prevent them from dealing with us?

We are extending our hands to the Lebanese Muslims as well as to the foreigners, but not to organize with them their presence in Lebanon. Our hands are extended to the foreigners to negotiate with them their departure from Lebanon.

We are ready to negotiate with anyone who is ready or capable of talking with us, turn over a new leaf and reach an understanding, because, this time, our decision will not continue for another 7 years no matter the sacrifices or whatever will happen. [applause] We are not ready to allow this situation to continue. Everyone around us is pleased with this situation provided that the fire is contained in Lebanon and does not affect the other areas of the Middle East. As long as the fire is confined to Lebanon, consuming everything, they do not bother as long as it does not reach them. As for us, we are not ready to allow the situation to remain as it is. We have been crucified on the cross for 7 years. This is enough. Our children, homes, cities and villages have been destroyed as was Al-Hadath and its children. We are not ready to accept this situation.

[We will accept] any decision, possibility and circumstance that will help us get rid of this situation. We will not accept our shores being Syrian and having 30,000 occupation soldiers on our land. We cannot accept our country being disintegrated as it is now. We are people with 6,000 years of civilization and have never been ignorant. We have been forced to accept this situation over the past 7 years. We were independent for 40 years before that. We have been in a state of unconsciousness and irresponsibility during the past 7 years. Now that we have lost 100,000 people, we are shaken and realize well what role we as Lebanese must play. So, from now on, no one must blame us if we make our decisions. Let the West, the Arabs and the whole world, trying to resolve the Palestinian crisis, resolve it and may God help them, but not through Lebanon, because we have not put our country on auction. [applause]

This is simply our call and decision. Our decision is to reject the partition which the Syrians and Palestinians are imposing on us. Our decision is to reject the resettlement which the Palestinians are very happy to carry out in Lebanon. The substitute homeland is being established from the Damascus road up to southern Lebanon. We tell you that the Lebanese, both Muslims and Christians, must work to prevent the resettlement that is materializing on Lebanese territory and with which all the countries of the world are happy. My Brother Muslims: Let us work together to uproot this status quo to achieve our total sovereignty over Lebanon so that it will be Lebanese and let the Palestinians find another place to live. [applause]

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES 'ARAFAT, OTHERS

JN221145 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Muhammad Nimr Salih, Fatah Central Committee member; and Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member.

SYRIA, PLO TO CALL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

JN211902 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry today between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The discussion during this meeting dealt with the grave situation in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan. It was agreed to call an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss this grave situation. The Foreign Ministry also instructed our permanent delegation at the United Nations to request a meeting of the Security Council and to call on the Arab, Islamic and nonaligned groups to discuss this situation and adopt the appropriate stand.

KHADDAM URGES NONALIGNED, ISLAMIC SUPPORT IN UN

JN211946 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has addressed a message to the Cuban foreign minister, since Cuba is the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. The following is the text of the message:

You have learned about the current developments in the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza resulting from the Zionist occupation authorities' intensification of their practices and actions against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories. These practices and actions have led to the disruption of public utilities in the occupied areas, the dissolution of some municipal councils, the suppression of the people's will, the imposition of curfews, the isolation of towns and villages from one another, the withholding of foodstuffs, the closure of universities and schools and widespread civil disobedience against the occupation authorities, which did not hesitate to use arms against the defenseless inhabitants. The authorities faced these inhabitants with bullets, killing some of the demonstrators and threatening to use force against store owners.

This situation, which is becoming increasingly tense and in which the Arab people in the occupied areas are exposed to the murderous, savage and barbaric acts of the occupation authorities, has prompted the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to call an urgent session of the UN Security Council to discuss this situation and its grave consequences, which could possibly lead to a conflagration, jeopardizing peace and security in the region and the world and resulting in the death of more Arabs in the manner taking place now.

I am confident that the member states of the Nonaligned Movement will support the cause of the Palestinian people and of liberating the occupied Syrian and Palestinian territories, and will express this support during the coming UN Security Council debates. I do not doubt that you share my opinion that if the Security Council had adopted deterrent measures -- provided for in Chapter Seven of the UN charter -- against Israel during the debate on the Golan issue last January, Israel would not have dared to intensify its savage practices and acts of persecution and repression.

AL-MUSTAQBAL ON USSR MILITARY SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN210835 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 20 Mar 82 p 14

[Text] Arab sources in Damascus have told AL-MUSTAQBAL that the Soviet Union has promised that it will increase Syria's air force and air defense combat capabilities. Marshal Kutakhov, commander in chief of Soviet air forces, has informed President al-Asad that Moscow will stand by Syria when Syria joins the Palestinian resistance in repulsing any Israeli attack against the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon.

TISHRIN WARNS OF EXPECTED ISRAELI AGGRESSION

JN220919 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA) -- The newspaper TISHRIN today warns of an anticipated Israeli-U.S. aggression against Syria and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to enable the United States impose its preponderant influence over the region. The paper adds that Israel is preparing to launch a new aggression, the plans of which have been drawn up in the White House. Israel, TISHRIN says, has paved the way for this aggression by intensifying its presence along the border strip, by backing the agent Sa'd Haddad's forces with U.S. mercenaries and by opening new roads inside Lebanese territory to facilitate the movement of invading forces. Furthermore, Israel has given the green light to Bashir al-Jumayyil and his militiamen inside the isolationist ghetto to disrupt the situation in Lebanon. TISHRIN adds that through this new aggression imperialism and Zionism in collusion with their agent and reactionary tools in the region -- intend to strike at Syria and liquidate the Palestinian resistance as a prelude to establishing new demarcation lines in the area. According to Joseph Kraft, the well-known U.S. commentator, these lines have been drawn up by the Pentagon. Continuing, TISHRIN says that the aim of imperialism and Zionism is to strike at our kinfolk's steadfastness in the Golan and at the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip preparatory to annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Zionist entity.

In conclusion, TISHRIN asserts that imperialist and Zionist dreams are doomed to failure, because the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese strategic alliance -- which is being supported by the forces of freedom and progress as well as by the socialist bloc led by the friendly Soviet Union -- will be a stumbling block to the implementation of the conspiratorial, aggressive scheme. This scheme is doomed to failure because the will of the masses defeats every aggressor and realizes its objectives in liberating the land and restoring rights.

INFORMATION MINISTER ON PEACE WITH ISRAEL

JN220615 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] In a statement to be published by the London TIMES today, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said that Syria wants peace with Israel. At the same time it believes that this peace is quite impossible in view of the Israeli and U.S. policies in the area.

Defining his country's stand on the peace conditions, the Syrian minister said this peace can be attained only through Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem; Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and set up their independent state under the PLO and through the termination of the state of war between Israel and the Arabs. He noted that Syria cannot be excluded from any discussions on peacefully settling the Middle East crisis.

DAMASCUS RADIO ON EGYPT'S RETURN TO ARAB FOLD

JN181620 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] The talks about the Egyptian regime's return to the Arab ranks is a controversial Arab issue. This issue occupies an important part of the moves and statements of a great number of Arab officials. A few weeks ago, the talk about Egypt's return to the Arab fold was propaganda. The president of the Egyptian regime's visit to Jerusalem is the point from which the propaganda began to materialize and to reveal the background and motives behind the publicity given to the talk about the Egyptian's regime's return to the Arab ranks -- a return which is unacceptable from the popular, national and pan-Arab viewpoints, and which is acceptable from the official viewpoint of some Arab regimes, Washington and Tel Aviv.

The dimensions and aims of this publicity have revealed several trespasses by some Arab regimes and media. These trespasses extended beyond the pan-Arab framework and took a course which is no different, both in principle and starting point, from the principles from which As-Sadat began. Therefore, they will eventually meet with the U.S. schemes in the region aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause, striking at the Arab liberation movement and plotting against the Arab progressive and national regimes.

In a recent statement, Mubarak claimed that his return to the Arab ranks has become certain. He declared his sympathy with the Iraqi regime and his readiness to send assistance to Iraq in its war against the Iranian revolution. This statement, which was accompanied by overtures toward Cairo from Baghdad and Amman, has revealed new facts that exposed many contacts with the Egyptian regime. These contacts converged on the idea of transferring the Arab-Israeli struggle elsewhere. On the Iraqi-Iranian war, it is possible to squander Arab resources and weaken the intensive pan-Arab concentration on the Palestinian cause and against the Zionist policy of occupation and expansion.

Among the five regimes in Khartoum, Muscat, Amman, Baghdad and Cairo, issues are converging in this direction. It is believed that 25 April will be the beginning of the new phase on which great hopes are being pinned by Washington and Tel Aviv. According to Butrus Ghali and other Egyptian officials, the Egyptian regime will start comprehensive work to bring in other Arab states to the Camp David march. This means that the propaganda campaign to bring the Egyptian regime into the Arab fold is now proceeding from one point to another; from freezing the Jerusalem visit to the Iraqi-Iranian border and then to April, when the Mubarak regime will have completed its assigned tasks within the U.S. Zionist scheme. It will then be possible to expand the circle of plotting against those Arab states and forces confronting the Camp David agreements. This expansion will be effected through the main participation of the Egyptian regime, which will be free to deal with the Arabs following the deceptive withdrawal from Sinai in accordance with the U.S. rules and traditions that are known to be hostile to the Arab nation.

These are the hopes that all Arab sides ready to recognize Israel are waiting to realize after April. Therefore, Mubarak's return to the Arab fold constitutes their first and last springboard and their only refuge from the popular wrath threatening to overthrow them. However, our Arab nation, its progressive forces and its allies against the U.S. influence in the region are fully aware of the aims behind the moves to bring Mubarak into the Arab fold. The Arab nation will not allow Camp David to be redeemed at its expense or the expense of its fateful causes.

There is a basic difference between the return of Mubarak, with his Israeli peace, to the Arab fold and the return of Egypt, free from Camp David, to its Arab position of struggle against the U.S.-Zionist schemes, which are hostile to the Arab nation's aims of liberation and of guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The Egypt that will return to the Arab fold is the Egypt of the people and not that of As-Sadat and his heir Mubarak. This is the point at issue. Any attempt to jump over it will be doomed to failure.

BULGARIAN CP SECRETARY ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN191951 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Secretariat, arrived in Damascus this evening heading a delegation on a visit to Syria that will last several days. The visit is in response to an invitation from the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command. In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Stanishev praised relations between the BCP and the Ba'th Party and said: During this visit, a protocol will be signed on mutual cooperation and the promotion of existing relations between our two parties in the interest of our two countries and peoples, the development of friendly relations and the contribution toward supporting the just struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

Talks Begin

JN201656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Damascus -- A round of talks was held here today between a Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the party's National Command and chairman of the Foreign Relations Office, and a Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] delegation led by Comrade Dimitur Stanishev, secretary of the BCP's Central Committee.

The two sides discussed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and the means of further promoting these relations to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples and their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

They also reviewed current developments in the Middle East and the prevailing tension ensuing from the continued Zionist aggression against the Arab region.

The Bulgarian delegation reiterated its country's support for the just Arab cause, particularly the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their usurped rights. The delegation also voiced the BCP's appreciation of Syria's progressive policy, which is hostile to imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

BEGIN MAKES 'SECRET APPEAL' TO REAGAN ON AUTONOMY

TA210634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Good morning. We will begin with the frequent contacts between Israel and the United States. Recently the prime minister informally expressed to the U.S. President his concern over the possibility that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will in the future move away from the implementation of the Camp David agreements as they stand. Israel and the United States are now also maintaining frequent contacts over two disputed issues of the border demarcation in the Elat region. This morning, at the Cabinet session, the ministers will hear surveys by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon about the contacts that have been held with Egypt on this matter, about the events in Judaea and Samaria and in the Golan Heights. Here is our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer with a report on these issues:

[Schiffer -- live] In a most secret appeal, as we said, the prime minister tried to share with President Reagan some of the concerns disturbing him with regard to the future of the peace agreement with Egypt. In an informal letter called in diplomatic language a nonpaper [last word in English], Mr Begin presented the U.S. President with several facts: the Egyptian president's refusal to come and visit Jerusalem; the intransigent stand Egypt is taking in the autonomy talks; and so on. Ambassador Moshe Arens met on this matter with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who suggested that he give up a meeting with the President and leave the informal letter with the U.S. State Department. The prime minister did not ask the U.S. administration to act. Since the United States, however, is a full partner to the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, and on the assumption that in the future, too, the United States will play a decisive role in developing these relations, Mr Begin wanted them to be in the picture. And so, these very days, there are also urgent contacts between Israel and the United States on two other issues: the dispute over the demarcation of the border between Israel and Egypt in the Elat region and the determination of the site for the continuation of the autonomy talks.

Ambassador Arens explained to the heads of the State Department that Israel will not make concessions on the matter of the border demarcation in the Elat region. This pertains to Israeli sovereignty which is proved by maps and other things, he told the Americans. As for the autonomy talks, Israel has explained that the negotiations will continue in the future in the three capitals: Jerusalem, Cairo and Washington. And, in the Cabinet, against the background of these matters, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will give a review of the dispute with Egypt over the matter of the border demarcation, and on the events in Judaea and Samaria. In the defense minister's opinion, the latest events in these areas originate in the strengthening of moderate forces and in the attempt by PLO supporters to undermine this new situation. Minister Sharon will emphasize that Israel will strengthen the moderates and continue to use a firm hand toward the extremists.

Sources in the prime minister's office had this to say last night about this: A struggle has begun over the autonomy that is to be established in the territories. The PLO heads have described the latest events as the moment of truth. This is also what sources in Jerusalem think, but for different reasons.

SOURCES EXPLAIN STANCE ON AUTONOMY VENUE

TA211338 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Mar 82 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Egypt's refusal to hold the autonomy talks in Jerusalem might create a serious crisis in the negotiations and might present an obstacle to the peace process between the two countries.

The sources were reacting to Egypt's request to postpone the talks of the experts scheduled to open today because of Israel's desire to conduct them in Jerusalem.

Political sources in Jerusalem reiterated the Israeli position that if the Egyptians refuse to hold the negotiations in Jerusalem they may stay home, since Israel will not hold any political negotiations outside its capital.

The autonomy talks at the level of ministers and experts have to date been held outside Jerusalem. Following instructions by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon last week made it clear that Israel would no longer agree to conduct the autonomy talks outside its capital.

SHARON WARNS AGAINST DEVIATION FROM CAMP DAVID

TA211928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that should the Egyptians, together with the Americans, decide to deviate from the Camp David agreements, Israel will not be bound by the agreements and it may extend Israeli law to Judaea and Samaria. He also said apprehension in anticipation of 26 April are unwarranted, and he does not expect a substantial change in Egypt's position after the withdrawal is concluded.

Addressing Herut functionaries in Haifa, the defense minister said that should the Egyptians violate the status of the Sinai after the withdrawal by introducing troops into demilitarized areas, Israel would enter Sinai within 24 hours. But Sharon estimated that after 26 April the normalization process would be expedited if Israel firmly preserves its dignity by demanding that the autonomy talks be held in Jerusalem or not at all, and on the issue of the demarcation of the international border.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that the defense minister attacked the Alignment Knesset members for their visits to the Golan Heights, which encourage, in his view, the extremists among the Druze. He claimed that the holding of municipal elections in Judaea and Samaria 6 years ago was an act of foolishness and that they in fact facilitated the rule of the PLO in the territories.

Further Details

TA220550 Jerusalem POST in English 22 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] Israel has now reached the "limit of concessions" to Egypt, and if we cannot agree on the exact border demarcation before April 26, we will be better off staying where we are now in Sinai rather than risking another conflict with Egypt 24 hours after the withdrawal," Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon said last night. Speaking at a rally of the Herut Party in Haifa's Zion Hotel, he said, however, that there are no grounds for anxiety after the withdrawal. He said he believed the peace process will continue and normalization of relations possibly will be speeded up, because peace is as important to Egypt as it is to Israel.

"We tried to complete the autonomy talks before the withdrawal, but Egypt made it impossible. But it is they and not us who will be under pressure from the Arabs for failing to settle the autonomy issue," he said. Sharon said Israel is continuing to establish settlements and is developing Judaea and Samaria daily. He also said that the autonomy talks will continue in Cairo, Washington, and "Jerusalem -- the capital of Israel -- or not at all."

"And the Egyptians know that if they breach the peace agreement, which forbids them to put more than a few troops into Sinai in perpetuity, we will move back within 24 hours," he said.

Israel hopes that Egypt will accept the compromise on Tabah put forward by Begin at his meeting with 'Ali last week.

The Cabinet endorsed the proposal yesterday, but without disclosing details of the plan "so as not to prejudice the Egyptian decision-making process," officials explained.

Begin's scheme, it is believed, provides for an interim arrangement in which Israel would continue to operate its tourism facilities in the Tabah area, while the question of sovereignty over the area would be determined in subsequent negotiations. The Israeli Defence Forces will pull back most of its men to the northern edge of this 700-metre-wide strip at Tabah, while the Egyptian security forces, which are strictly limited by the demilitarization provisions, will not advance beyond the southern edge, according to the tentative draft worked out between Begin and 'Ali. The Multinational Force and Observers will station units inside the strip. A source close to Begin dissociated him from Sharon's statements to the effect that "Israel will refuse to withdraw from Sinai unless the dispute is resolved satisfactorily."

EGYPT ASKS POSTPONEMENT OF AUTONOMY TALKS

TA201920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Foreign Ministry officials in Cairo have said that Egypt has asked that the autonomy talks at the expert level be postponed due to Israel's demand that the talks be held in Jerusalem. The officials said that the Egyptian delegation to the talks, headed by Egyptian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Tahir Shash, would not be leaving for Israel tomorrow as scheduled. The Egyptian officials stated that the United States had tried to prevent the crisis by proposing that the talks be held in Washington but Israel had turned down the proposal and insisted on holding them in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said nevertheless that contacts on this issue are underway with Israel and the United States and he expressed the hope that the crisis would be settled within 1 week.

MA'ARIV REPORTS DETAILS OF CABINET DISCUSSION

TA221040 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 82 p 3

[Report by Yosef Harif]

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday described the last few days' incidents in Judaea and Samaria as the "critical moment" in relations between Israel and the inhabitants of the territories. The question is simple: Who will rule over Judaea and Samaria until autonomy is established -- the PLO or Israel?

The defense minister promised that Israel will fully back and support all those who express reservations with the PLO and take action toward improving the well-being of the inhabitants of the territories. In this context, he stated that what lies behind the increased activity of the PLO and its agents in Judaea and Samaria is the realization that it is losing its grip over the local Arab leadership. As soon as the PLO recognized this danger to itself it began stirring up ferment and threatening anyone who came out against it in public.

Minister Sharon said influential figures are throwing off the yoke of the PLO, and this is a prime development unprecedented in the last 15 years since Judaea and Samaria were liberated from Jordan. This is the first time, Sharon stressed, that Arabs in increasing numbers are expressing their opinions against the PLO without fear. These are not collaborators but people who have concluded that those inciting the inhabitants of the territories from the outside do not seek to work for the good of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria.

In response to a question by one Cabinet minister about whether Israel will defend those who are not prepared to be subordinate to the terrorist organizations, Sharon replied with a resolute yes. He emphasized several times during the session that defense will be provided not only to those who are ready to cooperate with the Civilian Administration but also to those who will publicly state their support for an independent state or those advocating ties with Jordan -- as long as they do not support the PLO.

Regarding the refusal of some mayors to cooperate with the Civilian Administration, the defense minister said this only proves that they prefer foreign interests over their own and are mindful of the needs of the people who elected them to service. If they see that unnecessary harm is being caused to the inhabitants but they still leave their jobs undone, this only goes to show that they are unworthy of the post of mayor.

Replying to requests for clarification by a number of ministers, the defense minister emphasized that no one hoping to agitate the local population against the Civilian Administration will be allowed to do this. Anyone who dares harm a military vehicle or Israeli civilians -- as in the last few days -- will have to pay the price for this.

All the Cabinet members without exception supported Ari'el Sharon's evaluation of the most recent developments in Judaea and Samaria. The Cabinet also backed the defense minister's views on yet another subject and stated that unless agreement is reached between Egypt and Israel on the 15 points of dispute with respect to the border demarcation, Israel will not withdraw from the current line.

The proposal worked out by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in anticipation of the talks with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali last week was presented to the ministers for approval. The Israeli proposal stipulates that Israel withdraw to the borderline suggested by Egypt, while Egypt will not advance beyond this line along which Israel is currently positioned (this pertains primarily to the Tabah area). The Sinai Multinational Force and Observers will be positioned between these two temporary border points. Sovereignty over the disputed areas will be determined in negotiations, but in the interim period until the negotiations are over, status quo will be maintained.

A joint committee comprising Israeli and Egyptian representatives will work out the technical arrangements for the interim period, including those affecting the two border points where people crossing in both directions will be checked. This decision, brought to the Cabinet for approval, was also supported by all the Cabinet members who expressed their views about the issue. Further to the remarks made by the prime minister -- who was the one to bring the above-mentioned proposals to the Cabinet -- the defense minister added that the final arrangement must be concluded by 26 April -- which is the date for the completion of the Israeli evacuation of the Sinai as stipulated in the peace treaty -- because, as he put it, we cannot leave behind "time bombs." What he actually meant to say was that it is easier for Israel to demand a final decision now, while it is still occupying part of the Sinai, rather than to evacuate everything and leave contentious points to remain, as he believes they would only cause new confrontations.

The defense minister will present the Israeli proposal to Egypt in the next few days, and if the Egyptian Government accepts it -- fine. If not, the issue will return to the Cabinet for discussion, but everyone understood that the idea is to reach an authorized decision that may even be a bit dramatic, stating that there will be no further withdrawal from the Sinai unless the matter of the final border demarcation has been settled.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reviewed the talks held last week with the Egyptian foreign minister. In fact, no real achievements were made and it was only decided that the two foreign ministers will meet once every 3 months so that they have the opportunity to discuss all sorts of issues that one party or another may decide to raise.

As for the autonomy talks, according to Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg -- who heads the Israeli team for the talks -- no progress has been made and it is impossible to project how any progress at all could be made before 26 April. Prime Minister Menahem Begin firmly reemphasized that if the Egyptians refuse to conduct the autonomy talks in Jerusalem, they will not be conducted at all.

The Egyptians proposed resuming the talks in Washington, but Israel was uninclined to go along with this, regarding this as a strategem aimed at bypassing Jerusalem. Naturally, Israel does not object to holding the talks in Washington, too -- if the need should arise -- but at this stage there is nothing that would demand that representatives of both parties go to the United States, as the issues at hand can be discussed either in Cairo or in Jerusalem.

CABINET AGREES TO SUPPORT BORDER PROPOSAL

TA211216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The Cabinet has agreed to support a proposal crystallized in talks with the deputy prime minister of Egypt regarding the border demarcation in the Elat area. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer reports that according to the proposal that has been published, the two countries will agree to solve the dispute between them in a committee to be established. Until the issue is agreed upon, the situation in the field will remain as it is, without either of the two countries' sovereignty demands being harmed.

POSITION ON BORDER ARBITRATION CLARIFIED

TA220932 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 82 pp 1, 3

[Report by political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] In yesterday's Cabinet session it was made clear that according to the peace agreement, negotiations on the disputed issues should be held before they are transferred to an arbiter for a final decision. It is Israel's position that this stage has not yet been exhausted with regard to the border points with Egypt. The ministers were also told that perhaps at a final stage a decision will be made to transfer the dispute to arbitration, but it would be necessary to discuss what form of arbitration this will be. At any rate, Israel rejects any arbitration on behalf of an international body. The prime minister noted that he would allow the profits made on the operation of the vacation sites to be tax free until a final decision is made.

EGYPT'S AL-BAZ TO ARRIVE, CONFER WITH BEGIN

TA220532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] A senior Egyptian presidential aide, Usamah al-Baz, will arrive in Israel today to confer with the prime minister and to deliver to him a personal message from Husni Mubarak. Al-Baz will confer with the director general of the Foreign Ministry today and meet with Menahem Begin tomorrow. Officials in Cairo said that Dr al-Baz would be carrying new Egyptian proposals to settle the dispute over the demarcation of the border, including the area of Tabah near Elat.

Political circles in Jerusalem expressed their belief to our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that Dr al-Baz's mission stems mainly from Cairo's fear that Israel will not complete the Sinai withdrawal in the wake of the dispute over the demarcation of the border. It seems that the Egyptian president wants to hold direct and reliable [amin] contacts with the Israeli prime minister.

W. BANK INHABITANT KILLED, OTHERS WOUNDED

TA201206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] This morning, a local youth who was taking part in a demonstration was killed in Al-Birah by shots fired by IDF troops. Ibrahim 'Ali Darwish, aged 17, was hit in the chest. Another two demonstrators were shot and wounded in Al-Birah and hospitalized in Ramallah. An investigation has been opened to examine the circumstances of the shooting.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the storm in Al-Birah began when a group of women tried to organize a protest strike at the municipality building. The IDF evacuated them from the spot, using tear gas. One woman needed treatment. Tempers rose; a large group of demonstrators went to the center of Al-Birah. They threw stones at soldiers. The IDF spokesman reported that one of the soldiers received serious head wounds and needed treatment. IDF troops were forced to fire in order to disperse the rioters and then one youth was killed and two wounded.

In Hebron there was also a demonstration near the Makhpelah Cave. An inhabitant of Qiryat Arba' who tried to prevent the demonstration was injured by a stone and afterward there were clashes between the demonstrators and a group of Qiryat Arba' inhabitants. The IDF has imposed a curfew on the road near the Makhpelah Cave and detained students inside the Husayn school.

In Nabulus, the army prevented Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah from convening a large rally. Ash-Shak'ah arrived at the spot with a large audience. Soldiers informed him that only he was entitled to enter the municipality building, but the public tried to break in by force. The soldiers fired tear gas and used force to drive the crowd away. In the riot, Bassam ash-Shak'ah fell to the ground and his friends carried him away. In Ramallah, Al-Birah and Nabulus the army broke a commercial strike. Our correspondent says that the IDF is using large forces in all the West Bank towns and it is arresting many students.

PUBLIC DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN WEST BANK

TA211832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Mar 82

["Evening Newsreel" report by correspondent in Judaea and Samaria Arye Gus on 21 March incidents in the territories -- recorded]

[Excerpts] This evening three refugee camps -- Balatah and 'Askar near Nabulus and Al-'Amarah near Ramallah -- are under curfew, as are Al-Birah and parts of Ramallah which are also closed to reporters. Public order violations are increasing daily, with youths, hurling more stones, showing more daring, resulting in soldiers firing more in self-defense. An IDF officer was wounded in the head today in the course of dispersing a demonstration and two tourists were hit by stones near Ad-Duhayshah, the refugee camp near Bethlehem. Also seven Arab youths were hurt today: four in Al-Jalazun -- although the IDF knows only of two -- two in Nabulus and one by shrapnel in Halhul north of Hebron.

The general strike continued today in all the towns, and it is expected that as it ends tomorrow [as heard] the order disruptions will accelerate.

The uncertainty over the Ramallah Municipal Council's moves this morning was removed around noon. Karim Khalaf, whom we found in the middle of a secret municipality meeting held in one council member's home, told us that although they decided to resign and signed the resignation letter, they have not yet submitted it. This will only be done at the proper time, but until then, he said, we regard ourselves as the mayor and the members of the municipal council.

[Khalif] -- [in English] And we took a decision for resignation, but we will wait to raise our resignation at the suitable time, the suitable moment, and we still consider ourselves as mayor and councillors of this Municipal Council of Ramallah.

[Gus] Although they have expressed solidarity with the dismissed Al-Birah mayor, the other mayors have not resigned. However, this prospect was discussed, and will be further discussed tomorrow. Meanwhile, the countermeasures of the Military Government continue: the passage to Jordan over the Jordan River bridges has been blocked to inhabitants of Ramallah, Al-Birah and Nabulus. The security forces have also prevented the local inhabitants from these towns from leaving them or entering them between 0800 and 1600.

We met a few youths near the crossing points. They wanted to come to Ramallah and were not permitted to do so. This move aroused a lot of anger among the travelers, as not all knew about it in advance, but the officer at the crossing point was not perturbed. This evening consultations among the mayors will continue. Most of them favor withholding reactions to the dissolution of the Al-Birah municipality for the moment, but it is still not totally ruled out that Karim Khalaf -- given to heavy pressure from the Al-Birah Municipal Council -- will not be able to withstand those pressures and will be forced to resign.

Further Details

TA210802 Jerusalem POST in English 21 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Richardson]

[Excerpt] The 17-year-old youth, pronounced dead on arrival at the Ramallah hospital, was identified as Ibrahim 'Ali Darwish. He was hit in the chest. His funeral, held yesterday afternoon, also turned into a violent confrontation with troops when the cortege tried to make its way through Ramallah with his body, which had been draped in a Palestinian flag. Several reports from the West Bank said that soldiers fired scores of tear gas canisters and shots in the air to drive the crowd from the cemetery. Two 16-year-old girls, Fatma and 'Aysha al-Barghuthi were wounded in the clashes and were operated on in the hospital. Halima Darwish, a 55-year-old woman, was hit on the head by a gas canister.

In Nabulus, a riot almost broke out when the Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah fell to the ground in a struggle with soldiers during which several shots were fired. The troops prevented him and a crowd of supporters from entering the municipal buildings, where he was planning to hold a political rally. According to reports from the town, Shak'ah raised himself and then called the soldiers "the children of Hitler and Mussolini, only strong because of the guns in your hands." He also said that anyone cooperating with the Civil Administration of the Military Government was "a traitor." Security sources said that, during the struggle outside the municipal buildings, someone tried to grab an officer's weapon and he was forced to shoot into the air.

In Hebron an unspecified number of local people were injured when a detachment of soldiers went into the Husayn school to rescue a Civil Administration education official who had been attacked inside. West Bank sources say that seven persons required treatment in the local hospital and charge that settlers were involved in the incident. No explanation was available as to why an Israeli official had entered the school on a Saturday.

Disturbances were also reported from Halhul, and a pharmacy belonging to the deported Mayor Muhammad Milhim was closed for a month. It is the only pharmacy in the town.

In Bethlehem soldiers welded shut the doors of one shop, apparently as punishment for the total commercial strike. As on previous occasions the store of the Mayor Ilias Frayj was selected. Stores were also welded shut in other parts of the West Bank, particularly in Ramallah and Al-Birah.

The body of a young man from the village of Sawiyah north of Ramallah was found near Sinjil further south where he attended school. Rumours that he had been killed by settlers from the area immediately swept the West Bank and were reported by Radio Monte Carlo last night. Police investigating the case have determined that the youth, Muhammad 'Abdallah Yusuf (Suhwain), 18, died about four days ago -- apparently after being shot in the head. West Bank sources said that there had been a clash between Arabs and settlers from Shilo last Tuesday.

Demonstrations were not confined to the West Bank. Police used tear gas to break up a demonstration held to protest yesterday's shooting in Dizengoff Circle in Tel Aviv and several people were arrested. Eight persons were detained for demonstrating outside the president's residence in Jerusalem and police also broke up a demonstration outside the home of the West Bank civilian administrator Menahem Milson.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality announced last night it would submit a motion of no confidence in the government over its policy in the West Bank and the disturbances it has endangered. The Alignment's Knesset faction is to meet today to consider the latest developments on the West Bank.

MK Mordechai Virshubsky (Shinuy) is demanding that the Knesset deal urgently with the situation on the West Bank. He said in a statement that government policy moves have been counterproductive and achieved the opposite of the goals for the Civilian Administration declared by Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon.

The army continued to hamper journalists' coverage of events in the West Bank and both on Friday and yesterday prevented them from entering the area for various periods. Photographers and TV crews had their film seized or were prevented from filming.

A bus passing through the east Jerusalem suburb of Wadi Jawz was stoned and (apparently in retaliation) passengers smashed the windows of 25 cars parked along the road.

"The killing of the young Palestinian in Al-Birah demonstrates the critical deterioration to which the Begin-Sharon-Milson policy has brought us," Me'ir Pa'il, the SHELI leader, told a meeting of SHELI activists in Netanya yesterday. The Hebrew University student group, Campus, expressed its shock at what it called "the murder by IDF soldiers of a student in Al-Birah and injuries suffered by two of his friends." A delegation of Israelis headed by the sculptor Yig'al Tumarkin, the poet "Yebi" and 'Uzi Burstein of RAKAH visited Al-Birah yesterday to express their support for the ousted mayor.

SECURITY FORCES PREPARED FOR DISTURBANCES

TA210659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Excerpts] After a stormy weekend in Judaea and Samaria and clashes that led to the death of a youth in Al-Birah and the wounding of an IDF soldier, the strike in the large towns protesting the dismissal of the Al-Birah municipality, has entered its third and last day. Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria, Arye Gus, says that the security forces are prepared for the possibility that today too there will be disruptions to the peace in the territories.

[Gus -- live] Feelings are high in Judaea and Samaria after the death of the youth who was shot in Ramallah during the dispersal of a demonstration and the finding of the body of another youth in the village of Sinjil on the crossroads of the Nabulus highway. The commander of the Central Command ordered that the investigation of this matter should be transferred to the investigating military police. The body of the youth found in Sinjil was moved to the pathological institute in the afternoon of 20 March. The family and the inhabitants of the village accuse Jewish settlers of having killed him, but yesterday morning the family turned down the security forces' request to take the body for an examination. That afternoon the body was taken, nevertheless.

During the night, security forces continued to investigate yesterday's rioting and scores of inhabitants were interrogated during the night. Arrests were made. The mayors in the territories have still not formulated an opinion about the political reaction to the dismissal of the Al-Birah municipality. The first reaction was, as will be recalled, the strike. At the last moment a collective resignation by the extremist mayors was avoided. The mayors decided to wait. The Bethlehem municipality decided not to resign, on the assumption that this would be exactly what the authorities wanted. The Hebron municipality did the same thing. Nabulus Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah refuses to express his views. The resignation, he said, is a form of struggle against the Civilian Administration and autonomy and the Nabulus municipality will not hesitate to resign at the right time if this is needed.

We will continue to fight against the Civilian Administration with all our strength, the Nabulus mayor continued. In the meantime, we are waiting for the end of the strike. This is also what the mayor of Tulkarm, Hilmi Hanun, said last night. A decision will be made tomorrow at the earliest and perhaps it will be made later, because the joint Jordanian-PLO committee is expected to meet tomorrow in Amman. And here we have learned some interesting information: Yesterday Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf stood at the head of the funeral of the youth who was killed in the demonstration, and this was after he had earlier aroused the anger of his colleagues in the municipality because he worked with all his might not to resign. Finally, he signed the letter of resignation but in the meantime, as will be recalled, the letter has not been submitted.

Public leaders in the territories were to no small extent surprised at the firmness the security forces have showed over the last few days. The term "iron fist" is again appearing in the press and is heard among the inhabitants and, as we said last week, the main question now is what will be the next move by the Civilian Administration. Will it wait until feelings calm, or will it strike while the iron is hot and ready, and within the next few days, summon yet another mayor to Civilian Administration head, Professor Menahem Milson, for a talk about the functioning of the municipality?

WEST BANK MAYORS SAY THEY WILL NOT RESIGN

TA210614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The mayors in the territories have decided not to resign to protest the dismissal of the Al-Birah municipality. However, the argument between the mayors as to how to react if the head of the Civilian Administration, Menahem Milson, summons to his office yet another municipality council, as happened with the Al-Birah Municipal Council, has not yet been concluded. Bassam Ash-Shak'ah, the mayor of Nabulus, and Karim Khalaf, the mayor of Ramallah, have announced that they will not respond to such a summons. Other mayors are saying that it would not be wise to provoke the Civilian Administration. In their view, it would be better to refrain from statements and weigh every development on its own.

RAMALLAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RESIGNS 21 MAR

TA211013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The Ramallah Municipal Council has resigned. Mayor Karim Khalaf explained that the council was unable to fulfill its tasks after the grave steps taken by Israel against the inhabitants, the murder of citizens, a curfew, an embargo and the imposition of the Civilian Administration. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari comments that last night the mayors decided to refrain from resignation. It is not clear if the other mayors will follow in the Ramallah municipality's footsteps. IDF troops are now ordering the inhabitants of Ramallah to enter their homes and they are apparently going to impose a curfew on the town.

Resignation Not Yet Valid

TA211124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1115 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus now reports that Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf told him that "although we signed the letter of resignation, we have not submitted it, and therefore, as we originally reported, the resignation is still not legally valid."

COURT BARS SHARON FROM EXPELLING AL-BIRAH MAYOR

TA211315 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The High Court of Justice has issued an interim order barring the defense minister from expelling the dismissed mayor of Al-Birah, Ibrahim at-Tawil. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that At-Tawil's appeal will be discussed by a panel of three judges. At-Tawil claims he fears he may be expelled only because he refused to confer with the head of the Israeli Civilian Administration. Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf this morning announced his resignation but a short time afterwards revoked his decision. Meanwhile, it has emerged that the Military Government itself may dismiss Karim Khalaf. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that the Military Government is currently checking suspicions that Khalaf embezzled funds. Such criminal suspicions may lead to his dismissal. Investigators on behalf of the Military Government have also begun checking the accounts of the Nabulus Municipal Council.

DEFENSE MINISTER, MILSON TOUR RAMALLAH, AL-BIRAH

TA221011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The defense minister toured Ramallah and Al-Birah this morning. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the defense minister was accompanied by the commander of the Central Command, the coordinator of activities in the administered territories, senior officers and the head of the Civilian Administration. Minister Sharon and his entourage drove through the streets of Ramallah and Al-Birah and visited the Binyamin Regional Council. They concluded their tour of the region with a briefing by the commander of the Central Command and the commander of the IDF in Judaea and Samaria [title as heard].

MONTE CARLO INTERVIEWS DISMISSED WEST BANK MAYOR

JN191917 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Telephone interview with dismissed Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim at-Tawil by Monte Carlo Radio correspondent Antoine Abu Samrah, carried in the "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] After the dissolution of the Al-Birah Municipal Council, I would like to ask why the Al-Birah Municipal Council, and you in particular, were the first targets of this dissolution?

[Answer] I believe that the Israeli authorities have the sole objective of applying the Civilian Administration and autonomy to the Palestinian people. It might be a coincidence that the dissolution was first applied to the Al-Birah Municipal Council, bearing in mind this council's constant rejection of the Civilian Administration and occupation in general. This is also the stand of all West Bank municipal councils. The aim of this measure, in my opinion, is to divide the citizens' moral power by striking at a large municipal council in the occupied areas.

[Question] What is the attitude of the rest of the West Bank municipal councils? Is there a decision to resign or to wait until they are dismissed, for instance?

[Answer] The municipal councils are still discussing this subject. Naturally, the aim is to have a unanimous stand by all the West Bank municipal councils. Any unanimous stand will undoubtedly have a great impact on the current situation.

[Question] Is there any coordination between the West Bank and the [Gaza] Strip?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Do you think that the dissolution of the West Bank municipal councils is a step toward the annexation of the West Bank?

[Answer] There is no doubt that this step is aimed at imposing autonomy, by which Israel intends to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Question] What sort of coordination is there now between the West Bank inhabitants and the PLO?

[Answer] All the people here fully support the PLO because it is the Palestinian people who chose this organization to act as their sole legitimate representative.

[Question] It was noted that a few days ago Jordan adopted a hard line and clear stand on the issue of the village leagues and the topic of the dissolution of the Al-Birah Municipal Council yesterday. The Jordanian Foreign Ministry issued the first reaction to this measure. Is there coordination between you and Jordan?

[Answer] There is a cordial and friendly relationship between us and our brothers in Jordan. We have very strong relations and ties binding us together. I believe that the Arab destiny is one common destiny. What happens to the Palestinian people affects the Arab peoples and all Arabs. Israel's measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the annexation of the occupied territories and the occupation of other territories may be followed by other similar measures in the future against other Arab countries. Israel will not hesitate to adopt such measures in the future.

[Question] These are very clear matters. Jordan rejects the Israeli measures, the same as you and the PLO. Is there coordination, for example, between Jordan and the PLO?

[Answer] I believe that the PLO and Jordan can answer this question. I have no direct contact with the brothers abroad.

[Question] One last word, Brother Ibrahim. What are your expectations for the West Bank?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the reaction was prompt and spontaneous and all citizens expressed great displeasure at the successive measures against the Palestinian people and their national institutions in the occupied territories. It is now time for the citizens' role. Their reaction is quite clear that they are very displeased.

[Question] Do you think that Israel will carry out its threat and close the bridges between Jordan and the West Bank?

[Answer] It is quite possible for Israel to undertake any action. It is also clear that Israel is inconsiderate of the world public, the United Nations or any state. Therefore, it can do what it pleases as there is no strong opposition from the European states, the United States and the United Nations.

[Question] What will happen if traffic between the West Bank and Jordan is interrupted?

[Answer] As for us here, I think we can live. In any case, any Israeli measure against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will not dissuade the Palestinian people from their basic principles nor will it give others the opportunity to rob them of their land.

[Question] Can the present situation in the West Bank be considered very grave?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the situation is very grave due to the continuing practices. This required a solid and united Arab stand as well as a European and U.S. stand against the continuous Israeli practices and decisions.

'MODERATES' CAN BE FOUND TO REPLACE MAYORS

TA191401 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Mar 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpts] Defense officials think that if the Civil Administration in the West Bank decides to dismiss more municipal councils, in addition to that of AL-BIRAH -- which was disbanded yesterday in accordance with an administrative order -- moderates could be found to replace them. The officials added that any mayors or municipal councils refusing in the future to meet with Civilian Administration head Professor Menahem Milson will be digging their own grave, as they would cause the immediate dismissal of the municipal council.

The officials added that in some of the major West Bank cities -- the mayors of which belong to the PLO rejectionist camp and are members of the National Guidance Committee -- there are those who oppose the mayors, and who, if necessary, could replace them. They cited the Al-Masri family in Nabulus, staunch opponents of Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah; Nadim (as-Zaru) of Ramallah (recently allowed to return from prolonged exile in Jordan and who served as mayor before his expulsion) who is an opponent of the current mayor, Karim Khalaf; and the Ja'bari family of Hebron, who regard the present mayor, Mustafa 'Abd an-Nabi Natshah, as a rival.

The Military Government in Bethlehem yesterday lifted the curfew on the Ad-Duhayshaf refugee camp, south of Bethlehem. The curfew was imposed at the beginning of the week following the stoning of Israeli vehicles and the wounding of a resident of Gush 'Ezyon. A gas station was set afire in the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp two nights ago and residents of the camp said that Jewish settlers started the fire as an act of retaliation. The fire was extinguished only after large quantities of gas were burned up.

ARAB REACTIONS TO WEST BANK EVENTS REPORTED

TA210813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has expressed his profound regret at the escalation that has occurred in Judaea and Samaria while Jordan wants to reach a closer cooperation with the PLO in the framework of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee. In the top tanks of the PLO, there is a dispute over the reaction to Israel's policy in Judaea and Samaria. 'Arafat's deputy, the person responsible for the territories portfolio [as heard] in the top ranks of the PLO, Abu Jihad, is calling on all the Arab countries and their leaders to react sharply to the steps Israel is taking in the territories. Here is our correspondent on Arab affairs, Aharon Barne'a:

Egypt is keeping a close watch on the developments in the West Bank, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said yesterday, and no wonder.

Official circles in Cairo estimate that the latest developments could create new facts in the field, facts that would represent another obstacle in the autonomy negotiations, this in addition to the current obstacle regarding Israel's insistence on holding the talks in Jerusalem and its rejection of the U.S. proposal for a meeting on the ministerial level in Washington; this is what Cairo is saying. Israel is continuing with a plan to destroy the trust of the inhabitants of the territories, sources in Cairo told us during the night, while Egypt will demand to continue the negotiations, in which it will repeat its demands regarding the need to take steps to build up trust by Israel as if has done to date at every meeting in the autonomy negotiations. In any event, sources in Cairo say, the escalation in the West Bank will have very important implications for the negotiations and the comprehensive peace process.

In the top ranks of the PLO, there is no small degree of confusion over the initiative Jordan is taking. Not everyone agrees about the reaction inside the territories and especially about the question of the collective resignation of the mayors, the PLO's main stronghold in the territories. The dismissal of the Al-Birah Council is one of the steps being taken by the Israeli enemy, whose main purpose is to cause suffering to the citizens, Abu Jihad, 'Arafat's deputy, who holds the portfolio of the territories in the PLO steering committee, said at the end of last week.

By the steps it has taken, Israel is trying to implement the plan for civilian administration and civilian government [minhal ha'ezrahi vehamimshal ha'ezrahi] headed by Dr Menahem Milson as part of the Begin-Sharon plan to consolidate the Civilian Administration instead of the Military Government, when the entire world already knows that this is nothing but replacing the military uniform with civilian clothes. This is what Khalil al-Wazir, "Abu-Jihad," said in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo. Both Abu-Jihad and 'Arafat himself have appealed to the inhabitants of the territories to stand firm against the Israeli steps. The reaction of the inhabitants within the territories is the only practical reaction that will lead to the breaking of the continuation of the conquest, Abu-Jihad said. And, when he was asked about coordination of positions with Jordan, he evaded answering, claiming that the reaction should be pan-Arab, because of the Jordanian move in taking advantage of the isolation of Syria, which is railing against the entire Arab world, and in taking advantage of the deadlock imposed on the PLO by the cease-fire agreement in southern Lebanon.

The Jordanian minister for land affairs, Hasan Ibrahim, has also evaded committing himself about the level of coordination with the PLO, and has expressed fear about the threat made by Menahem Milson to close the bridges over the Jordan River.

Jordanian policy from the beginning has been that the open bridges are something important and this is for the strengthening of the links between the inhabitants of the conquered lands and the east bank and, via it, with the Arab world. We think, Hasan Ibrahim said, that the open bridges are important for the strengthening of the stands of the citizens in their country. There is no doubt that President Mubarak's words about the need for Jordan's participation in the negotiations and Egypt's desire to play the role of mediator between Israel and Jordan and the PLO after 25 April have not, at least in Amman, fallen on deaf ears.

IDF CLOSES OFF RAMALLAH, AL-BIRAH, NABULUS

TA210830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The IDF has also closed the three towns of Ramallah, Al-Birah and Nabulus and their residents cannot enter or leave them between 0800 and 1600. These hours were fixed partly out of consideration for workers who leave for jobs in Israel.

It was not reported how long these steps would be in effect. Journalists will be allowed unrestricted access to these towns. The strike by merchants in Ramallah and Al-Birah is total. In Halhul, stones were hurled at an IDF patrol.

IDF RESTRICTS TRAFFIC OVER JORDAN RIVER BRIDGES

TA210715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] This morning the IDF closed the Jordan River bridges to traffic by the inhabitants of Ramallah, Al-Birah and Nabulus. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF is stopping the inhabitants of these three towns from leaving or entering. It has not been reported for how long these steps have been taken. The mayors in the territories had decided previously not to resign in protest over the dismissal of the Al-Birah municipality.

LABOR PARTY REACTS TO WEST BANK POLICY

TA211213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The Labor Party says that the government's policy in the territories has recently reached the point of complete bankruptcy. The Labor Party's announcement says that the, as it were, soft line policy during the founding of the Civil Administration had led to a crisis and turned the IDF into a garrison dealing with riots instead of dealing with important security affairs. The announcement by the party's reactions team says further that Israel must rid itself of the aspirations to rule a large Arab population in the territories and turn to a compromise plan which has a reasonable chance of solving the Israeli-Arab conflict. The current policy will only get the country involved in complications with a hostile population.

FORTY STUDENTS DETAINED IN RAFAH RIOTING

TA212040 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2025 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Rafah, 21 Mar -- Hundreds of students demonstrated and rioted today in Rafah, the southern town in the Gaza Strip, shouting slogans against the Israeli conquest and the steps the Israeli administration has taken in Judaea and Samaria. IDF soldiers, reinforced by border policemen, arrived there and called on the students to disperse. The students then threw stones at the soldiers, who were ordered to fire warning shots into the air. This caused the demonstrators to flee, and about 40 of them were detained and brought to the police station.

An ITIM correspondent has learned that all detainees were released by the early evening hours upon completion of their interrogation. Over the last few months there have been disruptions of order in Rafah against the backdrop of the new border that will partition the city beginning in April. However, this time it was a political demonstration and an expression of solidarity with the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria.

IDF ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT E. JERUSALEM STRIKE

TA220818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] The security forces are this morning trying to prevent the continuation of the commercial strike in East Jerusalem. The ITIM correspondent reports that hundreds of policemen have called on the homes of east Jerusalem businessmen and have handed them orders signed by the commander of the IDF Central Command to open their stores at once. Dozens of businessmen were driven in police patrol cars and opened their shops under the supervision of policemen. Policemen have been placed at the entrance of various shops to prevent shopkeepers from closing them again.

In various schools in east Jerusalem teachers told students to go back home because classes would not be held. Students set up a stone barrier near a school and the security forces removed it. The ITIM correspondent reports that the streets in east Jerusalem are almost empty of tourists but are full of jeeps of the border police and regular police patrols.

MINISTER MODA'I WARNS OF STRIKES IN LEBANON

TA191718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i has disclosed that there have been attacks AND attempted attacks from southern Lebanon that the public does not know about. According to him, this trend is increasing. Minister Moda'i also disclosed that the United States pressured Israel, preventing an Israeli retaliatory operation. Therefore, afterward, they warned that an infiltration from Jordan and Syria is also a violation of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon.

In a lecture at the Haifa naval and economic club, Moda'i said that Israel would strike when there is a good possibility of the other side striking. The policy of retaliation has ended. In his view, it should be made clear to Syria that if it continues to refuse to speak with us, we will not agree to sit and listen to its declarations about the intention to destroy us.

LEBANESE PAPER CHARGES GAS USED IN S. LEBANON

TA201158 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] A Lebanese weekly published in Paris, AL-MUSTAQBAL, reports today that two Netherlands soldiers belonging to UNIFIL were injured by gas which Israel used in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese weekly quotes U.S. officials in southern Lebanon, according to whom UNIFIL officials registered a complaint with the UN secretary general and informed Washington about the incident. But they say that all the parties involved are keeping the affair under wraps. AL-MUSTAQBAL claims that the gas was used in December in the area occupied by the Netherlands UNIFIL unit. It says that several soldiers noticed unusual smoke, and that their commander immediately ordered them to put on gas masks. As a result, all of the soldiers escaped injury, except for two, whose gas masks malfunctioned. They were taken for treatment to the UN hospital in Al-Naqurah. The weekly says that the matter was discussed by the Governments of Israel and the Netherlands, and that Israel promised to cease using gas on the condition that the incident would be kept secret.

Military Sources Deny

TA201224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1203 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Excerpts] In reaction to a claim by a Lebanese weekly that Israel used gas in southern Lebanon, military sources in the north have said that use of gas by the IDF is absolutely inconceivable. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that this was a routine exercise involving the movement of tanks under a smokescreen, not gas and that both the UNIFIL and the Netherlands press, which had its journalists in the area, received the explanation and the matter was passed over without notice.

TELEM DECIDES NOT TO JOIN GOVERNMENT COALITION

TA191529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The steering committee of Telem has decided not to join the coalition. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that 13 voted in favor of the decision, 1 voted against, and 2 did not take part in the vote. The Telem decision states that under the existing political and economic circumstances Telem is not willing to join the government. The party decided to set up a committee to work towards the establishment of a national unity government.

LIBYAAL-QADHDHAFI, JANA COMMENT ON SAUDI OIL CUTBACK

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement

LD220106 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA yesterday following the Saudi rulers' claims of having decided to lower their oil production to 7 million barrels per day. In his statement the brother leader explained that the Saudi family did not put forward any positive action at the Vienna meeting which proved their complete subservience to the orders issued by Washington and Tel Aviv.

The leader stressed there is no justification for producing more than 7 million barrels per day except for the need of the U.S. [word indistinct] for supplying the Israelis with the latest means of destruction directed at destroying the Arabs and Muslims. He said the unreal and impudent personal expenditure of the Saudi family -- even if it surpassed phenomenal limits -- could not exceed the income from 2 million barrels per day. The leader said, at the end of his statement to JANA, that the world, except for the Americans and the Israelis is asking questions in astonishment about the income from the other 5 million.

JANA Commentator

LD202312 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The Saudi oil minister announced today that Saudi Arabia will cut its oil production from 7.5 million to 7 million barrels per day as of 1 April.

Commenting on the announcement, the JANA political commentator says: Saudi Arabia has definitely lost its credibility as lies have become a daily means by which to distract attention from its efforts to serve U.S. strategy and to bolster the oil stockpiling of the U.S. administration. This new announcement is another lie that Saudi Arabia has added to its series of lies about the so-called cutback. The announcement is not true at all. The Saudi princes are selling oil privately to increase their personal incomes.

The political editor explains that the Saudi decision to increase production to the current level was in response to U.S. demands and is indicative of Saudi subservience to the United States. Saudi exports exceeded the currently declared figures.

TRIPOLI RADIO CRITICIZES SAUDI COUNCIL OF ULEMA

LD202010 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Saudi Arabia's so-called Council of Senior Ulema issued a statement attacking the leader of the revolution, discrediting the correctness of the faith and beliefs of the Libyan people and using a common style and vulgar expressions in an attack on the Jamahiriyyah and its people. The council demonstrates to the world that it is a despicable instrument used to strike at the unity of Muslims and to achieve the aims of imperialism and reaction and that it hides under the veil of Islam and the call to carry the banner of Islam.

This body of imposter ulema in Saudi Arabia consists of a bunch of adulating functionaries and corrupt and corrupting elements uttering falsehoods and engaging in debauchery, cowardly elements uttering falsehoods and engaging in debauchery, cowardly covering up crimes of morality, dishonor and depravity, practicing abominations and turning a blind eye to homosexual orgies and the debauchery of the princes who drink their goblets full of wine in the palace corridors.

What comes from the mouths of those adulating functionaries is inspired by and on the orders of their masters, who pay and manipulate them to make the "haram" [what is prohibited] into "halal" [what is allowed] and vice versa. That is the trait of those atheists and receivers of bribes who trade in the almighty. They have become instruments for aborting the hopes of the people and corrupting their dreams. They decorate what is false for the devils of the palaces and work for other than the religion of God and the glory of His messenger.

Where are Islam and Muslims in this body of senior Islamic ulema, this group that keeps quiet in face of the facts and does not utter a word or take any stand that could be construed as meritorious, only stands of hypocrisy, deception and fraud.

Where was that bunch of adulating functionaries when the land of Islam was burning? How far away are those clowns, who are so enthusiastic about satisfying the sultans, from the fundamental issues for which our Arab nation and our Islamic world is struggling?

We know those cowards with their trivial abilities and empty education. We know they trade in religion and sell licenses to practice what is prohibited to the Saudi ruler whose abominations, lies and betrayal of Islam and Muslims abound throughout history.

In case that bunch of quacks has forgotten, we remind them of what exists and what is real. Their stand is cowardly and insignificant. We condemn their deliberate silence regarding the disgusting crimes committed by the debauched Saudi princes against the Arab people living on the Arabian Peninsula under the force of tyranny, injustice and the most severe kind of despotism. Why do those exalted ulema keep silent? Why don't they say what is allowed is obvious and that what is prohibited also is obvious? Why don't they expose what is happening in the palaces of the Sa'ud family and condemn that family's allegiance to the United States and Israel? They know the real answer. They know they are merely slaves and a corrupt clique, filthy instruments, sinful subnormals, a conniving, feeble gang and a flock of lost ostriches drowned in their cowardice. Shame on those who kiss dirty hands and smelly noses and woe unto those laying themselves at the doorsteps of the rulers and clamoring for the tyranny of those who idolize themselves. To hell with the ulema who have sold their conscience, treaded on their beliefs, corrupted themselves, sold what was left of their honor and stained what was left of their dignity.

There is nothing to link those corrupt on earth with Islam. They have no religion. They try to incite our people and the leader of our revolution because they have become a part of the mob and common people, bewitched by the dinar and the dollar. They are the apostles of blasphemy and the instigators against Islam. Our Arab nation must expose those trivial people haunting the palaces' wine cellars, singing the praise of the tyrants, and the ignoramuses of the lost and debauched Sa'ud family, a family disowned by the Arab nation and the Islamic world because it is God's enemy and the enemy of this great nation.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN COMMENTS ON SAHARA REFERENDUM

LD172300 Paris Domestic Service in French 1810 GMT 17 Mar 82

["Facing the Public" program: press interview with King Hassan II in Casablanca -- recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Will you postpone the referendum on the Sahara?

[Answer] I could have said that wanting to recognize the SDAR contradicts asking the Saharans whether they want to be independent or joined to Morocco. [passage indistinct]

I maintain my position concerning the cease-fire and the referendum. You will see -- the longer we maintain it, the longer Algiers, Tripoli and their satellites will seek delaying tactics to prevent the referendum from taking place.

[Question] Your Majesty, a few weeks ago, before the OAU decision, your foreign minister said there **could** be a cease-fire at the end of March. Do you still consider this hypothesis possible?

[Answer] If the implementation committee under the chairmanship of President arap Moi meets and declares a cease-fire on a date it considers fit, as far as I am concerned, since the OAU still exists and since the implementation committee was appointed by two successive summits, I would accede to the date imposed by the implementation committee.

[Question] Just after the Nairobi conference, which put an end -- at least people thought so -- to the disputes over the referendum in Western Sahara, you expressed your desire to be more particularly concerned with domestic matters, to try to pay more attention to the problems arising, since you have removed the external problem. Do you still see the end of this problem?

[Answer] Politically, for me the problem of the Sahara, the Sahara file, is closed. A summit decided to assign to the implementation committee full freedom and the widest powers to organize a cease-fire and a referendum. Politically and legally, for me the file is closed. I am waiting for all parties to the conflict to start applying these decisions.

Fundamentally, it is another matter. If the Polisario, helped by Algeria and Libya, now wants to become a dissident in relation to the OAU, and thereby isolate itself within the OAU, certain members of which belong to the Arab League, to isolate itself in relation to the OAU which is part of the nonaligned world, it must take responsibility. But for me the political and legal problem is closed, the file is closed. Fundamentally, it is another matter.

On Mitterrand Stance

PM221013 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Mar 82 p 8

[Text] In his first public reaction to the president of the French Republic's visit to Israel, King Hassan II of Morocco said Wednesday, 17 March, he is "disappointed" by Mitterrand's 4 March speech to the Knesset. The king, who was the guest on France-Inter's "Face the Public" program recorded in Casablanca, recalled that during his visit to Paris at the end of January he expressed the hope that Mitterrand would tell "the Israelis some basic truths as he suggested he would publicly and privately." In addition, he stated at his press conference that he is convinced the president "who has fought well for Israel will fight well for the Palestinians." "Although he fought," the king pointed out the "he lacked punch."

The Moroccan king said he expected a "firmer" and "clearer" speech and instead saw "a courteous president of the French Republic anxious to steer a middle course but a little too indulgent toward the Israelis' aggressiveness."

"While talking about the Palestinians in occupied Palestine," Mitterrand could have "asserted the PLO's leadership role," the king continued.

The Moroccan king, who is also chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, expressed the view that the forthcoming Council of Europe meeting in the holy city "would do nothing to help France and Europe play a positive role in the Near East in the coming months." He indicated that the European interlocutors who received Moroccan envoys in that connection "promised to make efforts to prevent that meeting from taking place there."

Regarding relations between Tripoli and Rabat, the Moroccan king described Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as a "hooligan but a hooligan on the mystical plane, in other words, almost an infidel." He added that he had no proof that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is organizing international terrorism but that that would not surprise him. The king also said he is disappointed by Algeria's attitude, especially regarding the question of the disputed admission of the SDAR into the OAU. He expressed the view that Algiers' behavior at the last OAU council of ministers' meeting in Addis Ababa "removes all doubt." "I sighed with relief," he added: "I am resuming my freedom of action.... I must say that that gives me freedom at the military level and at the international and political level because I had other cards to play."

Finally, since the journalists insistently asked whether Morocco will grant the Americans military facilities, the king retorted: "The answer to that is not your concern."

SUDAN

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MOROCCO'S BOUCETTA 21 MAR

JN211545 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Mar (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this morning received M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs.

In a statement to SUNA after the meeting, Boucetta said he conveyed an oral message to President Numayri from King Hassan II of Morocco, dealing with issues of common interest on the Arab and African levels. He said viewpoints were identical regarding these issues and regarding the two countries' fraternal relations and ways of strengthening them.

Boucetta added that the talks focused on the serious and deep rift inflicted on the OAU with regard to the Western Sahara issue and the behavior of the OAU secretary general toward this issue. He said he conveyed to the president His Majesty King Hassan's views about this issue as well as the measures to be adopted. Boucetta added: The OAU must not be left in a state of chaos, illegality and unlawfulness, but must be restored to the right path. In his capacity as an important member of the followup committee on the Sahara issue, President Numayri explained his views on this issue. Sudan's position is identical to Morocco's.

Boucetta added: Regarding Arab issues, we deemed it necessary to undertake joint action to put an end to acts aimed at disrupting Arab ranks in the region. We are seeking to put an end to these acts regardless of the source. Asked by SUNA about the efforts exerted to hold an Arab summit conference in Fes, Boucetta said there are current contacts and bilateral meetings and consultations on the level of the Arab League General Secretariat in this regard. He expressed the hope that the second part of the Arab summit will be held within the next few weeks.

The meeting was attended by Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak.

Press Statement on Visit

JN211632 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Mar (SUNA) -- The Foreign Ministry today issued a press statement on the visit of M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, to Sudan on 20 and 21 March, during which he conveyed a message to President Numayri from King Hassan II of Morocco, dealing with bilateral relations, current African and Arab issues and the recent split within the OAU.

President Numayri gave the Moroccan envoy a special message for King Hassan. He also authorized the envoy to inform Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, current chairman of the OAU, of Sudan's request for the convocation of an extraordinary African summit to rectify the illegalities resulting from the 38th session of the OAU ministerial council. The following is the text of the statement:

Within the framework of continuous contact and consultation between the Democratic Republic of Sudan and the Kingdom of Morocco on bilateral affairs and issues of mutual concern, M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, paid a working visit to the Democratic Republic of the Sudan on 20 and 21 March 1982, during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco to his brother His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan.

The message deals with developing bilateral relations between the two countries and the means of strengthening them. It also touches on Arab and African issues, especially the recent split within the ranks of the OAU. Sudan is a member of the executive committee concerned with the Western Sahara issue. His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri gave the Moroccan envoy a similar message for King Hassan, dealing with the same issues.

Regarding the current state of affairs within the OAU, His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri authorized the Moroccan envoy to inform Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, current chairman of the OAU ministerial council, of Sudan's request for the convocation of an extraordinary African summit to rectify the illegalities resulting from 38th session of the OAU ministerial council so as to preserve the OAU's prestige and cohesion and restore its legitimacy. In accordance with the directives of His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, the foreign ministers of both countries held a working session during which they dealt with bilateral relations between the Democratic Republic of the Sudan and the Kingdom of Morocco and Arab and African issues, including the steps which must be taken to patch up recent differences within the OAU. In the field of bilateral relations, the two ministers discussed the means of strengthening and consolidating bilateral cooperation in all fields. They agreed, in this respect, to convene a meeting of the joint Sudanese-Moroccan committee in the next few weeks in Rabat. The ministers praised the strong ties between the peoples of both countries.

During their discussion of the situation in the region, Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani reviewed the efforts exerted by the Sudanese Government to achieve economic and social development in the country. He also referred to the attempts being made by the Libyan regime to shake Sudan's security and stability and to undermine the economic and social gains the Sudanese hope to achieve. These attempts, he said, are part of Libya's subversive activities on the African Continent. The foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan called on Arab and African countries to take all necessary measures to put an end to Libyan subversive activities.

In this respect, M'hamed Boucetta affirmed Morocco's absolute solidarity with the fraternal Sudanese people in facing these subversive Libyan plans. Boucetta informed his Sudanese counterpart of Morocco's readiness to cooperate with Sudan in a collective effort to put an end to the Libyan regime's activities in the Sudan and the Western Sahara region. The two ministers agreed on the need to work seriously to clear the Arab atmosphere and surmount Arab differences so the Arabs can face their common Zionist enemy and enable the Palestinian people to determine their own destiny and regain all their legitimate rights, including the right to establish their independent state on their land.

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES STEPS AGAINST LIBYA

JN211012 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Mar (SUNA) -- Foreign Minister Mirghani gave yesterday a statement on the Libyan hostile attitude towards the Government and people of Sudan. In his statement Mirghani said the Libyan regime was continuing its aggressive propaganda against Sudan. It has gone as far as to adopt the barbaric methods of sending in explosive and destruction devices to sabotage the important establishment in the country and propagate disturbances.

The hostile and aggressive acts being perpetrated by Libya against Sudan contradict with the simplest rules. He said this action is far beyond a mere violation of the charter of the Arab League and it simply puts Libya in one line with the Zionist enemy whose relations with Iran are now uncovered.

He said Sudan condemns the criminal acts of Libya and sees no other way but to address the Arab League and urges it to take steps against Libya, steps tangible enough to stop Libya and realize the aspirations of the Arab nation for solidarity and unity.

OFFICIAL DENOUNCES AL-QADHDHAFI'S 'CLOWNING'

GF201630 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 16 Mar 82 p 1

['Abdallah al-'Umari dispatch]

[Text] Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, Sudanese minister of state for internal affairs, has denounced the Libyan ruler's recent clowning and his attempt to undermine the wise Saudi government. He announced Sudan's readiness to participate in any positive Arab coordination effort on both the political and economic levels in to eliminate this nightmare that stifles the Muslim Arab Libyan people.

In an interview with AL-MADINAH, the Sudanese minister of state for internal affairs said his country knew of Al-Qadhdhafi's foolish policy long ago. He said Sudan realized the nature of Al-Qadhdhafi's separatist regime and its illegal distribution of the Libyan people's wealth. For some time Sudan has called for confronting the threat to Arab solidarity and Afro-Arab cooperation posed by Libya's colonel.

Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq called upon all Arab countries to save the Muslim Arab Libyan people from Al-Qadhdhafi's tyranny so that the Arab Libyan people can contribute positively to Libya's development, join the Arab peoples in their fight against the Zionist enemy and participate in their activities on the Islamic, Arab and international levels. He said Al-Qadhdhafi's frivolousness and vituperation have become a source of ridicule and contempt for politically aware Arabs.

The Sudanese minister of state for internal affairs said Sudan will not attend the OAU summit conference scheduled to be held in Libya in July 1982. He added: We will not sit in the same place with such a low level of leadership.

WESTERN SAHARAREFUSAL OF ADMISSION TO OAU MEETING PROTESTED

LD181128 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Liberated Territories (SDAR), 18 Mar (APS) -- Foreign Affairs Minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) informed the OAU secretary general about the illegal decision of the Senegalese authorities. "He is also asking for the holding of this important conference at the OAU headquarters or in another neutral country."

In a communique released yesterday the Saharan minister of information recalled the decision of the acting president of the council, Mr Girma Yilma (Ethiopia) to postpone the Dakar meeting. It evoked also the OAU deputy secretary general, Mr Zanzimana's, declaration considering "all the decisions of a certain number of countries null and void because of the absence of the required quorum".

Despite all the manoeuvres of a limited number of delegations (14 on 51), the session of the council of the African ministers of information was simply postponed following the Senegalese refusal to enable the entrance of Dakar to the Saharan delegation, refusal which provoked the protest of several delegations siding with the SDAR and their withdrawal from the conference. [sentence as received]

ABDELAZIZ ON OAU ADMISSION, MILITARY SITUATION

PM181641 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Mar 82 p 7

[Mokhtar Bendid and Tayeb Belgiche interview with Mohamed Abdelaziz, Polisario secretary general and chairman of the Command Council, in the SDAR on the sixth anniversary of its proclamation]

[Text] [Question] Mr Chairman, the sixth anniversary of the proclamation of the SDAR virtually coincided with its admission to the OAU. How do you view that event?

Abdelaziz: it is perfectly well known that, since the 17th OAU summit in Freetown, the SDAR has enjoyed the legal status enabling it to join the OAU as a full member with full rights. In keeping with the charter, a candidate state must obtain a simple majority to be admitted. We obtained that de jure majority at the 17th OAU summit. At the 18th summit, the secretary general made himself clear inasmuch as he submitted a report -- part of which was devoted to the West Sahara -- in which he stressed his determination to implement and respect the OAU Charter. After that summit, the secretary general shouldered his responsibilities by notifying the SDAR of its admission to the OAU since it had obtained the necessary number of votes. Of course, you remember that at the 18th OAU summit in Nairobi King Hassan II came with an "initiative" which he described as a "peace" initiative for the West Sahara. Hopes rose, suggesting that the Moroccan king was sincere in his pledges. Subsequently, from the second and third Nairobi meetings and all the other positions expressed by the Moroccan Government, it became clear that the king of Morocco has not abandoned his intransigent attitude and has stood by his "no" to the OAU -- no to a peaceful solution to the conflict, no to a just and proper referendum, no to direct negotiations between Morocco and the SDAR, the two warring sides.

It therefore became obvious that the Moroccan king still persisted in his negative position expressed both at the Monrovia and Freetown summits. Thus, the Moroccan king is still against a peaceful and just solution to the conflict. He thus has clearly revealed that the policy of aggression and of annexing territories by force, the policy of rejection and systematic sabotage of the OAU Charter, the attempt to exterminate the Saharan people -- these are still on the agenda of the Rabat regime. Therefore, Moroccan policy has not changed in essence, only in form.

It has thus become obvious that King Hassan II's "peace initiative" is simply a maneuver aimed at erecting a screen, giving a semblance of legality to his policy of annexation, an operation aimed at playing for time and an attempt to deceive the OAU. That is why the Polisario Front and the majority of peace-loving countries in the OAU and the United Nations have called with all their strength for direct negotiations without delay between the two warring sides with a view to rapidly reaching a peaceful and just solution. But, the will of us all has encountered the Moroccan king's intransigence.

At the 38th OAU council of ministers' session, the SDAR was admitted as a full member of our continental organization. Of course, that is not an extraordinary phenomenon but simply a normal event, in other words, the normalization of the situation. The truth has been restored and the OAU Charter respected. This is an essential guarantee for the OAU and its strength because the Moroccan king has tried to urge it to trifle with its charter. The 38th council of ministers' session imposed respect for the charter and thwarted all those maneuvers. This is an event which inspires satisfaction not only among the Saharan people, because their territory is occupied, but also among all African peoples because the OAU has proved its solidarity, its ability to implement its charter and principles in spite of any violation and its ability to say no to those who want to question it. On this occasion, we hail all the African states who defended the charter and the OAU Secretariat General, which imposed respect for that charter and showed that it is capable of being its guardian while avoiding being drawn into maneuvers by those who want to question it. Those countries and the Secretariat General have been firm on principles.

[Question] After this admission, what role do you think the OAU implementation committee on the West Sahara should have?

Abdelaziz: From the start and in the light of the 18th OAU summit resolution, the implementation committee's mission was to find a solution to restore rights to those having rights. The only way to attain that objective was to bring the two parties in the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario Front, to the same negotiating table to reach a just peace agreement. As far as we are concerned, we have proclaimed our desire to do that many times. It is now up to the implementation committee to demand the same readiness from Rabat and to spare no effort to ensure that the latter accepts direct negotiations and adopts a course leading to that process.

[Question] Following that admission, what do you now expect from the Nonaligned Movement?

Abdelaziz: Regarding the Nonaligned Movement, we note, unfortunately, that its principles have been seriously violated for 7 years as regards the West Sahara question. That stagnation takes on even more serious dimensions in view of the harmful action aimed at involving the United States in this war. We think the nonaligned countries have a particularly heavy burden of responsibility in this West Sahara conflict. Therefore, we think it necessary for the nonaligned countries to take practical action to restore the Saharan people's rights, restore peace in the region and, above all, prevent U.S. intervention in support of the Moroccan king in the West Sahara because that would expose the whole region to serious danger and would be a harsh blow and a test for the nonaligned countries' principles and policy in northwest Africa.

[Question] Now that the SDAR enjoys de jure recognition within the continental organization, what are your plans for the future?

Abdelaziz: We think the first mission the SDAR will carry out is that of briefing international organizations and countries whose charters and policies we consider in keeping with the principles guiding us. We are going to take action to consolidate the SDAR's position within the international community. We are also going to act to convince people more effectively of the true nature of the parties to the conflict. We will campaign and work assiduously to establish relations with all states on the basis of mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation.

In Africa, the cornerstone of our policy will be to work for the protection of the OAU Charter and principles based on the completion of the continent's liberation, respect for the international borders inherited on independence and the need to unify the continent and to promote cooperation, respect and understanding between our country and the African countries.

[Question] Do you think that the strengthening of the U.S. military presence in Morocco will complicate the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict? Why?

Abdelaziz: It is true that the U.S. intervention is bound to further complicate the problem. Not only will that intervention complicate a originally simple problem, but it will expose the whole region to a destructive, fratricidal war likely to exhaust our peoples' energies and to absorb their attention while diverting them from their real objectives which are, among others, economic growth and the struggle against underdevelopment.

American intervention contains the threat of drawing our region into neocolonialism. It is worrying at a time when the United States is playing an active part in the dangerous attempts to destabilize certain independent peoples who hitherto had been living in peace. It is worrying when you know what role the Moroccan king played in the aggression against Benin in 1976, his role in the attempted coup in Mauritania on 16 March last year, his role in Angola -- particularly since he has made his country a bridge for and a supplier of arms to the traitor Savimbi. The king also has violated African and Arab law by maintaining relations, including relations at a military level, with the Pretoria regime and by weaving close relations with Israel. All those facts, which are open secrets, work against the Arab countries' will, against the Arab peoples' interests and sacred rights. In addition, the king is in a state of dissidence in relation to the OAU Charter and its principles and, consequently, is openly rebelling against the decisions of international organizations -- this king whose expansionist megalomania borders on insanity.

Let's not forget that King Hassan II has also gained a sorry reputation for massacring the children of the Moroccan people with the sole aim of saving a teetering throne. Such a regime, with such characteristics, was bound to call for U.S. interventionism against the will of the region's peoples, against the OAU's will. That intervention is bound to stimulate its aggressiveness and bellicosity against the region's peoples and to threaten the northwest African states' independence and stability. But that danger has a more important dimension in that it concerns the whole of Africa, the Mediterranean states and Europe in general. In taking this action, the United States is shouldering grave responsibility by acting as it is and aligning with adventurist ideas.

[Question] Giscardian France bears a great responsibility for the tragedy experienced by the Saharan people. Are you satisfied with Socialist France's attitude toward you?

Abdelaziz: Of course, as you know, France is no stranger to the region. The reverse is true. That can be explained by its geographical position and by the fact that it formerly took part in the colonization of this region. As for the West Sahara question proper, France was implicated in that problem from the start. First, in the days of Giscard d'Estaing's policy, it played a serious role in signing the tripartite Madrid agreement and in fully supporting its partners. It even went so far as to intervene militarily against the Saharan people with its Jaguar aircraft. But the French left recently won the elections and came to power. Of course, France's geographical position remains unchanged and the relations which the region had woven with it are still there. Those relations are still just as important. Therefore, we think it is Socialist France's duty to act with efficacy and speed to maintain the close nature of those relations -- in the direction of right and justice of course.

Unlike Giscardian policy, its action should help end the war by supporting the struggle of the oppressed who are fighting for the restoration of their rights, by establishing normal cooperation with all the countries of the region, including the SDAR, and by working to achieve a solution to the conflict by means of direct negotiations between the SDAR and Morocco, the two warring sides. It also has a duty to combat the danger posed by the intervention of foreign powers in the region. In a word, we hope France will not one day be "irrelevant" in the region, as is true of Spain.

[Question] With regard to Spain, King Hassan II has just visited that country. Do you think Madrid is still an accomplice in the plot being hatched against the Saharan people?

Abdelaziz: The Spanish Government has played a harmful role, detrimental to the Saharan people and against the peoples of the region and the Spanish people themselves. It will continue to be responsible for this situation until it completely revises its attitude.

[Question] Finally, on the military level, what impact could the wall surrounding the "useful triangle" have on the course of your struggle?

Abdelaziz: Since 1976, the war has gone through stages, each of which was decisive. Each step we take victoriously on the military plane forces the enemy to seek different strategies. From the end of 1975 to the beginning of 1976 [as published], the West Sahara was completely occupied. It was occupied by Morocco in the north and by Mauritania in the south. In early 1977, the military pact between Rabat and Nouakchott was signed and the Moroccan Army occupied northern Mauritania. From the end of 1977 to the start of 1978, there was the French military intervention. At the end of 1978, and during 1979, the withdrawal of Moroccan troops from northern Mauritania was imposed and we succeeded in liberating a large part of SDAR territory. We even took up position in a large section of southern Morocco. That period coincided with the enemy's attempt to form major groupings of men and equipment such as the "Ouhoud," "Zellaka" and "Zarak" groupings, in addition to which Mirage aircraft and other sophisticated arms were put into action. Those forces, arms and newly applied successive alternative strategies met with an obvious defeat at Smara, Mahbes, Zag, Abatih and in the Ouarkziz in March 1980 -- especially the mobile groupings. After that, work began on building the wall, which followed the failure of all the strategies pursued to that date. Of course, the new strategy cannot be any more successful than the previous ones because the Moroccan Army has been pinned into a defensive position. However powerful it is, that army is the daily target of our struggle. Thus, the "wall" is Morocco's last military card and its inevitable destruction will mean the end of the occupation of our territory. That will inevitably happen. It will not be long in coming.

ETHIOPIAERITREAN 'BANDITS' IN DISARRAY, DEMORALIZED

EA181930 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring countries 1530 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] Secessionist bandits in Eritrea are in disarray and have been demoralized not only by the superior fighting tactics of the second revolutionary liberation army and the unity of purpose, but the support the army enjoys from the broad masses in Eritrea region. These were the views of some among hundreds of bandits captured on various fronts, including wounded ones. They said that they were surprised with the humane treatment given them on being captured by members of the revolutionary army, contrary to what they have been told about being shot on the spot. The captured bandits said that one of the ploys used by the bandits to boost the morale of their (?deep) followers was the spread of false propaganda such as the bombing and destruction of Asmara airport.

UGANDAOBOTE, BISHOP ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE

EA181136 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] President Obote and the bishop of Kampala, Emmanuel, Cardinal Nsubuga, have pledged never to condone any acts of violence or banditry. In a joint statement after reviewing the security situation in the country, the two leaders condemned the perpetrators of such acts. Their discussion had particularly centered on the [words indistinct] of the attack on Malire barracks on 23d February this year. They appealed to all Ugandan nationals to abide by the provisions of the constitution and the laws of the country and to respect human life and the property of the people.

The president reaffirmed that government was duty-bound not only to stamp out acts of violence and banditry but also, in doing so, to forge a process of established procedures. He said that members of the security forces have been given very strict orders to conduct themselves within the confines of the law and that incidents where public officers, including security personnel, have acted outside the law in every instance have been taken up by the government, and this process will continue.

In this respect the president told the cardinal that government is investigating the attack of Malire barracks and subsequent operations. He regretted that in the subsequent operations some members of the security forces went into Rubaga Cathedral and also into the residence of the cardinal. The two leaders agreed that where possible, operations would be carried out with the help of the local chiefs.

The president and the cardinal condemned the fact that the attackers had placed their guns in front of Rubaga Cathedral and hoped that the appropriate respect will be afforded to places of worship by every Ugandan. The cardinal took the opportunity to brief the president on the operations which took place on Monday, 15th March, and the president assured the cardinal that government would be investigating the incident, which had been reported to the police. It was recognized by the president and the cardinal that the majority of the people of Uganda are law-abiding, want peace, stability and the rule of the law. The joint statement was issued in Parliament buildings, where the president received the cardinal.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICKOLINGBA PLEDGES TO MAINTAIN LAW, ORDER

AB211300 Paris AFP in French 1116 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Bangui, 21 Mar (AFP) -- "Law and order will be maintained" in the CAR, head of state Kolingba asserted in a radio and television message to the nation yesterday evening.

President Kolingba, addressing the country for the first time since Ange Patasse's abortive coup d'etat on 3 March, strongly warned against all acts of [words indistinct] the population to peace and calm, in the absence of which "the nation will forever stray farther from the ideals on which strong and prosperous nations are built."

On the other hand, the CAR head of state recalled the mission he assigned himself by seizing power on 1 September 1981: to lead the country along the path of "unity, togetherness and oneness."

General Kolingba energetically denounced the "turpitude" of some "stray" officers who believed they could lead the country into "perilous and criminal" adventures.

General Kolingba then expressed satisfaction with the "high sense of national awareness" displayed by the CAR people and their army at the time of the attempted coup d'etat, adding that the "national consciousness displayed by the army brilliantly confirms the necessity of the action undertaken to bring together the hatred and the passion that dominated the political life."

Finally, President Kolingba expressed the hope that the recent events "will increase the desire of the friendly countries to contribute more to the CAR's recovery efforts."

It will be recalled that on the night of 3 March and morning of 4 March, former Gen Francois Bozize broke into the radio Bangui newsroom and announced that there was a coup d'etat. This was formally denied soon afterward by General Kolingba. Former Generals Maikoua and Bozize, "the plotters" of the abortive coup, have fled while Ange Patasse, considered the brain behind the coup, has sought refuge at the French Embassy in Bangui.

CHADGOVERNMENT TROOPS FAIL TO RECAPTURE OUM HADJER

AB191147 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Yaounde, Cameroon, 19 Mar (AFP) -- Chad Government troops have failed in a fresh attempt to regain control of Oum Hadjer, a town about 400 kms (250 miles) west of the capital Ndjamena, which has been occupied for months by the rebel Armed Forces of the North (FAN), reliable sources said here today.

The sources said several dozen government soldiers had been killed and the FAN had seized a large amount of equipment.

About 800 men had been engaged in the offensive, which took place some days ago, the sources said.

The town exchanged hands briefly on February 21 but was recovered by the FAN four days later with heavy government losses.

GHANARAWLINGS, SECRETARIES ADDRESS RALLY 19 MAR

AB191920 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, today asked every citizen to use his own initiative, imagination and conscience in the struggle against poverty, hunger and squalor instead of looking to others to think and do things for them.

Addressing a rally at Koforidua, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings pointed out that it is an act of violence for people to use their knowledge or influence to play upon the ignorance of their fellow men to the advantage of themselves. He emphasized that the refusal of the poor and the downtrodden to stand up against misery and to learn to do things for themselves make them equally guilty as those who try to use them to their advantage.

He charged every Ghanaian to rise up against fear, jealousy and laziness which he said can be used by the enemies to divide their ranks and enslave them once more. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said there is a great deal of sacrifice ahead of all Ghanaians because the nation's coffers have been miserably exhausted by the People's National Party and previous governments. In the light of this, costly soap such as Lux can no longer be produced. Everyone will have to rely on Guardian soap, Pale soap and the local "Kokodoma" or "Amonkye." He made it clear that the little amount of foreign exchange that can be made will be used to import some of the much-needed essential items.

On the country's food situation, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said it is disgraceful that with all the abundant resources Ghanaians have to go hungry while they go about shouting independence. He charged individuals, organizations and institutions to do some farming to boost food production. He said that it is the only way by which independence can have real meaning.

The secretary to the PNDC, Mr Asamoah, urged Ghanaians to guard against divisive tendencies which normally take the form of vicious rumors. He categorically denied rumors that the PNDC itself and its secretaries for the ministries are mainly of one particular tribe. The secretary for the Eastern Region, Mr Akraasi Sarpong, said it is now up to the people to hold on firmly to the power that has been transferred to them through the revolution and use it wisely to bring about the desired changes. He said those who think that things will soon go down are deceiving themselves because they will never get the opportunity again to cheat the people.

FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF LIBYAN OIL ARRIVES 19 MAR

AB191925 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Ghana today took delivery of the first consignment of 24,000 metric tons of crude oil from Libya. It is part of the 500,000 barrels offered to Ghana by Libya as their practical support for the 31 December revolution. The Provisional National Defense Council secretary for fuel and power, Mr Appiah Korang, who took delivery at the Tema harbor, said with the arrival of the oil, the council is laying the foundation for a long-term solution to the perennial shortage of crude oil, which the country has been experiencing for some time now. He assured the people that the fuel problem is now under control because of tentative plans laid on to ensure regular supply of crude oil. The country is thus moving into a new era where there will be regular supply of petroleum products.

Mr Appiah Korang thanked the Government and people of Libya for what he called the amazing speed with which they came to the aid of Ghana. This, he said, proves with an unquestionable authenticity that Libya is prepared indeed to help Ghana. Mr Appiah Korang said he is confident that the precedence that has been set by Libya in terms of cooperation between the two Third World countries will continue. The secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Accra, Mr (Muaauia El Nabruk Sir), said the arrival of the oil marks the beginning of the solidarity of the Libyan people with their brothers in Ghana. Libya, he said, had decided to support and assist all nations which are struggling for their freedom and seeking to establish the authority of the people.

OATUU OFFICIAL CONDEMNS GULF OF SIDRA MANEUVERS

AB182100 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] The Organization of African Trade Union Unity [OATUU] has asked its member states to work effectively towards the emancipation of workers and peasant farmers from their present unpleasant condition. Addressing a news conference in Accra today, the secretary general of the organization, Mr Akomo, said the failure of African governments to involve the working masses in decisionmaking has contributed greatly to the lack of progress on the continent. Mr Akomo said this is why the OATUU supports Ghana's revolution which aims at involving workers in all sections of the society not only in the reconstruction effort but also in the administration of the country. He said the time is now ripe for a full-scale agrarian reform which will lead to abundant food for the working and peasant populations. He also emphasized the importance of industrialization to support the agricultural sector.

Mr Akomo condemned the United States for its decision to hold military maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra which is in Libyan territorial waters. He also condemned Israel's continued alliance with the racist Pretoria regime. In this connection, he urged the Ghanaian authorities to send high-powered delegation to the forthcoming solidarity meeting in Tripoli, Libya. The meeting will discuss how African countries can stand together against racism, Zionism and imperialism.

GUINEA

IRAQI GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ARRIVES 18 MAR

AB191129 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] An Iraqi Government delegation led by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Brother Hamid 'Alwan, arrived in our country today on a special Iraqi airliner. This delegation includes Brothers (Abd al-Dibri), adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and (Rashid Saburi), a Foreign Ministry attache.

The Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, who is bearer of a message from Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn to President Sekou Toure, was received on arrival by Comrade Mamourou Toure, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, who was accompanied by our ambassador to Iraq, Comrade Mamadou Saliou Sylla, and Comrade Ibrahim Bangoura, chief of protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

TWO MINISTERS DISMISSED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION

AB191024 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 18 Mar 82

[Text] On 16 and 18 March, the Central Committee and the government held working sessions in the Cabinet meeting hall under the distinguished chairmanship of Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure, supreme leader of the revolution and head of state. Both sessions started at 1300.

The purpose of these meetings was to look into the fire outbreak that involved thousands of drums of bitumen and into the irregular importation of bitumen by the Public Works Ministry. After reports were made concerning these affairs and explanations were heard from the authorities of the various services concerned -- the Public Works Ministry which was responsible for the importation, the External Trade Ministry and the bank -- a ministerial commission presided over by Comrade Boubacar Diallo, minister of economic and financial affairs at the presidency, was set up to study the matter and to determine the responsibilities at all levels [words indistinct].

On 18 March 1982, the meeting heard Comrade Boubacar Diallo's report and resumed its discussions. Explanations were given by all those concerned and note was taken of them. [passage indistinct]

The meeting agreed that it was not necessary to import such a large quantity of bitumen since many of the drums had to be stored on the outskirts of the town with all the risks of deterioration. The head of state examined the facts and held Comrade Ibrahima Kabassan Keita and Saikou Barry responsible for the losses suffered by the nation. After considering all the circumstances, therefore, the president and head of government dismissed from their ministerial functions Public Works Minister Ibrahima Kabassan Keita and State Control Minister Saikou Barry, who was then minister in charge of banks and insurance.

The meeting ended at 1500. Ready for the revolution!

LIBERIA

SECURITY DIRECTOR DISMISSED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

AB211400 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] The director of the Special Service [SSS], Mr Quih Gboku Wright, has been dismissed from his post on charges of embezzling more than \$91,666. He is to be immediately turned over to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. The action against Director Wright was taken yesterday by the head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], CIC [Commander in Chief] Samuel Kanyon Doe. The head of state said he has personally examined certain records of the SSS and discovered during the auditors' investigation gross irregularities in the use of government funds by that agency.

Meanwhile, the chief accountant at the executive mansion, Mr Gibbson Sucker, has also been dismissed on the charge of embezzling \$75,000, representing funds entrusted to him for the operation of the Ministry of State. He is also to be turned over to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution.

The Liberian leader has indicated that [due to the] failure of these two individuals to make restitution of these amounts, their real and personal properties will be confiscated to the tune of the amounts indicated. The head of state's decisions [words indistinct] coincide with orders given early February to the Bureau of General Auditing to undertake a comprehensive audit of the executive mansion. He noted that this is the first time in the history of the nation that an audit has been conducted on the executive mansion. CIC Doe further noted that any report of corruption in government agencies would be thoroughly investigated as he has done with the Ministry of State.

The Liberian leader noted that in view of the importance he attaches to the SSS, he is personally taking over the supervision of that agency pending the appointment of a new director.

The chairman of the PRC is also directing the acting auditor general to employ 10 new qualified auditors to facilitate the rapid completion of the audits in the country. At the same time the bureau has been authorized to conduct an audit of the Ministry of Commerce, the national police force and the University of Liberia, in addition to the Ministries of Education, Public Works and Finance.

TOGOEYADEMA MESSAGE TO MOI ON SDAR COMMITTEE

AB172108 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Mar 82

[President Eyadema's message to OAU Chairman Daniel arap Moi following a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Rally of the Togolese People held in Lome on 16 March]

[Text] Mr President and dear brother: I have the honor to inform you that, during its meeting on 16 March, the Political Bureau of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] condemned the implications of the decision made by the OAU secretary general at the 38th council of ministers meeting to admit the SDAR into the organization as a full member. The consequences of such a decision are such that they may lead to the disruption of the OAU even though the weight of our organization in the affairs of our continent and in the world constitutes an essential factor of modern history. Africa must once again prove its political maturity and its ability to transcend its differences to save the essential through unity and cohesion.

Regarding the recognition of the SDAR, each sovereign state has in all serenity taken a stand in conformity with its understanding of the cardinal principles of people's freedom and self-determination. This is why Togo decided earlier as a sovereign state and full knowledge of the case to recognize the SDAR. This is a position of principle that cannot be questioned. Respect for the independence, freedom and self-determination of the peoples must go along with the absolute need to safeguard at all cost the unifying factor within the OAU.

This is why, to safeguard unity and cohesion within the OAU, the RPT Political Bureau proposes the suspension of the SDAR membership in the OAU until the implementation committee submits its report on self-determination in the Western Sahara.

The difficulties of maintaining unity within our organization during the recent foreign ministers conference in Addis Ababa and during the Dakar information ministers meeting are signs of the deep, uneasy feeling threatening the internal unity of our organization.

To prevent the enemies of our organization from using the situation to widen the gulf between progressive and moderate states with a view to dividing us and to safeguard our organization, I suggest that in your capacity as current chairman of our organization, you appoint a restricted committee composed of your colleagues to try to bring closer the views of member countries after the situation created by the admission of the SDAR into the OAU. Africa will successfully overcome this difficulty if it can safeguard its unity. I extend to you my brotherly greetings and my sincere gratitude for the urgent measure you would like to take to avoid the disruption of our organization and I assure you of my highest regards.

[Signed] Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema

ANGOLASWAPO CALLS FOR CONFERENCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

AB201143 Luanda ANGOP in French 1045 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 20 Mar (ANGOP) -- In a press release distributed in Luanda yesterday, SWAPO described the recent proposals of the Western contact group on the constituent assembly as an attempt to give representation to regionalistic and ethnic groups.

Replying to the document of the Western contact group -- the United States, France, FRG, Canada and Great Britain -- entitled "The Electoral System of the Namibian Constituent Assembly," the Namibian vanguard movement stresses that the contact group and South Africa want to favor the tribal groups supported by Pretoria by using the system of one man, two votes.

On this issue, SWAPO insists that the system of one man, one vote should be used in decolonization will not be easily explained to the Namibian people whose level of education is very low and who have no experience in voting. [sentence as received]

Touching on the problem of individual qualifications and the affiliation of candidates to the parties evoked by the contact group, SWAPO feels all members have to be elected through the same electoral process and have to enjoy the same terms of office and legitimacy and all diversions should be avoided. The document affirms that for these reasons the vanguard movement of the people of the frontline states, of Nigeria and SWAPO on the matter of the revised proposals of the contact group and adopted by the OAU ministerial council in Addis Ababa. [sentence as received]

SWAPO, which is convinced that step by step negotiations are more convenient for the dilatory tactics of South Africa -- pretending to gain more time -- suggests that a conference be held immediately with South Africa to discuss the problems as soon as possible.

ANC SUPPORTS SWAPO IN REJECTING CONTACT GROUP

AB220755 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1420 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 21 Mar (ANGOP) -- The ANC in Luanda on Saturday reiterated its support for SWAPO and the frontline states in their rejection of the absurd proposals presented by the contact group for one man, two votes in the electoral process in Namibia.

Talking to the press on the occasion of the 22d anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in the Republic of South Africa, an anniversary which was celebrated on Saturday, the ANC representative in Luanda, Uria Mokeba, called on the South African people and the international community to reject such proposals.

Uria Mokeba said we presently are witnessing the intensification of a campaign by the so-called contact groups, made up notably of Great Britain, France, the FRG, United States and Canada, who want to complicate and prolong the independence process for Namibia. He states on the other hand that, for the SWAPO and the ANC, the unique basis for negotiations, as stressed in the final communique of the recent summit of the frontline states, is Resolution 435.

The ANC representative stressed that since the coming into power of Ronald Reagan in the United States, we have witnessed an alarming and open support to countries with the most reactionary regimes in the world, such as the military junta in El Salvador, Guatemala and racist South Africa. We also have witnessed the revival of counterrevolutionary groups against Angola, Cuba, Grenada and Vietnam.

Denouncing the American economic and military assistance to racist Pretoria, Uria Mokeba however called attention to the fact that this year has been declared by the ANC as an historic year for the revolutionary struggle because it has been proclaimed a year of unity in action. The ANC leader revealed that the armed wing of the organization, Umkhonto We Sizwe, has once again regained the people's confidence for its combativeness. In this regard, Uria Mokeba recalled last year's daring attack against the South African military base of Voortrekkerhoogte, considered then as impregnable. Today, in South Africa, the people express their total support for the ANC through massive actions where the organization's watchword is passed and its songs intoned. Affirming that the ANC will unite all actions of all the internal antiapartheid forces, which constitutes its prime objective, Mokeba states we will be able to coordinate our total rejection of this abominable system considered a crime against humanity.

Replying to questions, the ANC representative in Angola once again referred to the intensification of the armed struggle engaged in by the armed wing of the South African people, citing as an example the news broadcast by radio South Africa last Saturday, mentioning another attack by the ANC.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON REAGAN MILITARY ADVENTURISM

AB191940 Luanda ANGOP in French 1812 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 19 Mar (ANGOP) -- The Angolan minister of defense, Col Pedro Maria Tonha (Pedale), said in Luanda yesterday during the closing ceremony of a meeting, while assessing the results of the political, military and operational preparations made for 1981-82, that the military adventurism of the Reagan administration will not succeed in weakening our people's socialist option or the support given to those who are still fighting for their independence.

The Angolan defense minister first mentioned that this meeting was held while the country is facing difficult internal circumstances caused by the increasing aggressiveness of the South African racists whose armed actions are directed mainly against the civilian population and the vital economic objects, which have seriously affected our country's economy.

After stating that the Angolan Armed Forces must, first and foremost, defend the territorial integrity and national sovereignty, the Angolan minister said they must also take part in the national reconstruction tasks, especially in this phase of economic takeoff, for which every effort must be made to reestablish the country's economic and social system. He further said the conclusions of the meeting "should always guide you in your daily tasks in leading troops and they will serve as a basis for the creative development of the sector which each of you heads." He then called on the Angolan soldiers to ensure the rational use of military resources.

In a brief passage of his speech, Col Pedro Maria Tonha referred to the participation of advisers from friendly countries which had provided them with a broader view of the problems linked with the organization of the Angolan Armed Forces. He expressed his conviction that on returning to their working environment, they will contribute more to the development of our armed forces, he concluded.

FAPLA Leaders' Support

AB211325 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1050 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Luanda, 21 Mar (ANGOP) -- Leaders of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], which met under the chairmanship of the minister of defense in Luanda from 16 to 18 March to examine the implementation of the operational, combative and political preparations for 1981-1982, have expressed their unconditional support for President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, commander in chief of the FAPLA, and for his speech given in Lubango on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle for national liberation.

They also reiterated their support for the implementation of his policies, which aim at ever-increasingly consolidating our revolution.

We also desire once again to show our indestructible determination to defend our territorial integrity, national sovereignty and the revolutionary successes already achieved by the Angolan people and to continue to work toward strengthening the combat readiness of the FAPLA.

- That the memory and teachings of Comrade President Antonio Agostinho Neto, founder of the nation and of the MPLA-Labor Party should live on forever;
- [Words indistinct] to President Neto let us fight for economic independence;
- Long live comrade commander in chief of the FAPLA, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos;
- Power to the people;
- Struggle continues; victory is certain.

Issued in Luanda on 18 March 1982, the year of economic organization and popular vigilance

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. BOTHA CITES NEED TO ENSURE MILITARY DEFENSE

LD202320 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says the authorities will not hesitate if it is in the interests of the country to consider (?changes) to the military system to guarantee victory over the enemies of South Africa and to ensure continued self-rule.

Opening the new headquarters of the Powell [as heard] Commandoes in the Cape, Mr Botha said that traditionally voluntary military service [word indistinct] on the readiness to serve and on dynamic purposefulness. He said that in the past the enemies of South Africa were easy to recognize but the nature of the threat against South Africa was now so intense that the layman was not always aware of that danger. Mr Botha said South Africa could only be prepared for the enemy onslaught if the whole population played a part in its defense.

The South African minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, announced earlier that a study of compulsory military service would be published soon. He said it was not possible to extend the 2 years compulsory service for economic and other reasons. Therefore, the government was compelled to enlarge the military system in other ways. He said that everyone who was reasonably able would have to contribute to the interests of more proportional and fair defense of South Africa.

RAND DAILY MAIL Report

AB201340 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Johannesburg, 20 March (AFP) -- All white men up to the age of 60 who have not done military service could be called up into South Africa's Armed Forces, the RAND DAILY MAIL said today.

But the paper, quoting reliable sources, denied earlier reports that a bill to come before Parliament this week would include women, indians and coloureds (mixed race) in the draft for the first time. However, the bill will extend the period for repeated military service by reservists to 720 days during the 12 years following their two year initial engagement, the RAND DAILY MAIL said.

The age extension will mean 800,000 extra potential recruits, of which 20,000 could be called up by April next year, giving Defence Minister General Magnus Malan as many men as he needs, counting reservists, the paper added.

The RAND DAILY MAIL said that reports on the proposed new law had emanated from leaks in Parliament, and had "deeply angered" General Malan.

TREURNICHT FORMS NEW CONSERVATIVE PARTY

LD201612 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] The former Transvaal provincial leader of the ruling National Party in South Africa, Dr Andries Treurnicht, who broke away from the National Party recently, has formed a new political party. The party will be known as the Conservative Party of South Africa, and Dr Treurnicht was unanimously elected the leader. The leader of the National Conservative Party, Dr Connie Mulder, and the leader of the Action Own Future Party, Prof Alkmaar Swart, have pledged their support for the new party.

The foundation meeting was attended in Pretoria by 16 members of Parliament who voted against the motion of confidence in the prime minister a few weeks ago. Also at the meeting were 5 provincial council members, representatives of 99 constituencies and the leader of the conservative organization, South Africa First Campaign, Mr (Brendan Willmer). In his founder speech Dr Treurnicht said the party would advocate fair geographical divisions and a separate political realization for each nation in South Africa. The practical application of this would have to be still worked out, he said.

ZAMBIA

SOUTH AFRICA AGREES TO BOTHA-KAUNDA MEETING

AB191840 Paris AFP in French 1812 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Lusaka, 19 Mar (AFP) -- A spokesman for the Zambian Government today confirmed that South Africa has agreed to the principle of a private meeting between its prime minister, Pieter W. Botha, and the Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda.

The spokesman said South African authorities officially informed the Zambian Government of their acceptance. President Kenneth Kaunda had taken the initiative to propose such a meeting in an interview granted to a South African journalist, it was recalled in Lusaka.

Asked about the date it will take place, the spokesman replied: "The ball is now in the South African court."

On the venue of the talks, he recalled that President Kaunda suggested they take place in the Zambian capital, adding that the South African authorities had not yet made a decision on this point. The spokesman affirmed that, during this meeting, the discussions will exclusively relate to Namibia.

Observers in Lusaka note that it is, however, probable that Kaunda and Botha also will discuss problems created by the apartheid policy of the Pretoria government.

In reply to a question, the Zambian spokesman also excluded any possibility of extending the discussions to bilateral commercial relations.

In August 1975, President Kaunda met Botha's predecessor, John Vorster, and the Rhodesian leader, Ian Smith, during the Victoria Falls talks on the settlement of the problem of the independence of former Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWEMUGABE, NKOMO FACTIONAL FIGHTING FLARES UP

NC211850 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Salisbury, 21 Mar (AFP) -- New fighting flared up today in Zimbabwe between supporters of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and dismissed Cabinet minister Joshua Nkomo, and police said several people were hurt in clashes near here.

Mr Mugabe meanwhile told a rally in the southeastern town of Fort Victoria that his government expected to find more arms hidden by Mr Nkomo's minority Patriotic Front (PF) party, the Zimbabwean news agency ZIANA reported. The prime minister sacked Mr Nkomo and three followers from government on February 17, accusing them of plotting a coup, after a huge amount of arms and military vehicles were found on PF-controlled properties.

The fighting broke out at Chitungwiza, a sprawling all-black working-class agglomeration of half a million people south of Salisbury. They were the second clashes since Mr Nkomo's dismissal. Fighting on March 8 in the central town of Que Que left several wounded and brought the arrests of 31 people who are to appear in court Wednesday. Today's fighting started after a rally addressed by the minister of women's affairs, Teurai Ropa Nhongo, who is the wife of Army Commander Lieutenant-General Rex Nhongo, a Mugabe supporter. Bricks and stones were thrown and several houses -- including one belonging to a PF political commissar -- had their windows, roofs and furniture smashed, police said. The PF man was reportedly beaten with heavy sticks and iron bars. Local officials of Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) party said some of their members had been stabbed. One youth had an eye poked out by a stick. ZIANA reported that three people were arrested.

At the rally in Fort Victoria, Mr Mugabe said the government had obtained information on previously undiscovered arms caches. Since the first series of discoveries, the authorities have arrested three top military men from Mr Nkomo's old Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) in connection with the arms affair.

The prime minister, who advocates a one-party state controlled by ZANU, told his audience that the hiding of arms for use against the elected government showed that the PF did not have the people's interests at heart. He predicted that the people would therefore reject it. ZIANA reported that members of one of the newly-formed youth brigades receiving military training under government auspices marched at the rally carrying signs reading "Victoria is a one-party province".

PATRIOTIC FRONT CLAIMS HARASSMENT BY ZANU

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[Text] Salisbury, March 19 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe's minority Patriotic Front (PF) claims its followers are being systematically intimidated by supporters of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe to get them to renounce their party membership, and that the campaign has accelerated since PF leader Joshua Nkomo was dismissed from the Cabinet one month ago.

Mr Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), whose avowed intent is to create a one-party state, emphatically denies the allegations, while acknowledging that some "fanatics" within ZANU may be unfairly exploiting political developments.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE an official in the PF's National Organizing Department exhibited a dossier of reports which, he said, represented complaints of harassment received from party members in Salisbury and other urban and rural areas.

The official, Perkins Chilimanzi, linked the alleged intimidation to the recent spate of stories in the local press and government-controlled broadcast media about PF members coming over to ZANU.

However, ZANU's national organizing secretary, Maurice Nyagumbo, who is also minister of mines, asserted that the changes in membership were voluntary and unsolicited. "There have been no directives for any recruitment campaign", Mr Nyagumbo said "These (PF) members are coming in big numbers to our party offices around the country because they want to join ZANU. That is what we are publicizing". Media ranging from the governmental Zimbabwe Information Service and the semigovernmental news agency ZIANA to newspapers, radio and TV have, since the first of this month, carried at least a dozen stories relating the defections of a couple of thousand ordinary PF members and a number of party officials to ZANU. In most cases, the PF members were reported to have surrendered their membership cards and accepted ZANU cards. In at least one case, a mass public card-burning was held.

Mr Chilimanzi said harassment of PF members had begun increasing at the first of this year, and had further accelerated after Mr Mugabe fired Mr Nkomo and three followers from government on February 17, charging they were involved in stocking arms for an eventual coup. Mr Chilimanzi showed AFP complaints from PF members in the Sanyati district southwest of Salisbury, from Chiredzi in the southeast, from three places in the Salisbury area and from Chiweshe tribal land north of Salisbury. All reports were dated within the past two weeks. They included allegations that in the Salisbury township of Kambuzuma, canvassers identifying themselves as ZANU members went to a local PF official's house and sought to have him hand over his membership card. When he refused, the visitors took his address and said they would "send in the comrades", local parlance for former guerrillas. Police allegedly allowed former ZANU guerrillas to use government trucks to go to Sanyati, where they forcibly collected a number of party cards and uniforms from PF supporters. In Chiredzi, ZANU organizers were said to have told residents during a visit by Deputy Prime Minister Simon Muzenda that "they would be killed" if they did not attend a rally where Mr Mugabe was to speak. In Chinese and Chiredzi, the PF complainants said former Mugabe guerrillas had been "deployed" to hold political meetings, and threatened harm to those who did not attend. At least two other cases of door-to-door solicitation of party cards in Salisbury townships in which the PF member's name was taken came to the knowledge of AFP outside PF channels. Mr Nyagumbo, however, recalled Mr Mugabe's promise at the time of Mr Nkomo's sacking that ordinary PF members were not to be victimized, and said: "We have never harassed any opposition party...we think it's inhuman. I'm not denying there may be some fanatic elements who want to seize and exploit circumstances... but they are definitely not acting under orders", the ZANU official said.

MUGABE ANNOUNCES MILITARY TRAINING FOR ADULTS

LD201638 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has announced all adults will be given military training this year in order for them to form the people's militia forces. Comrade Mugabe made this announcement when he addressed thousands of people at (Sovane) stadium in Chiredzi this afternoon in continuation of his meet-the-people tour. He said the training will be conducted in villages throughout the country during weekends. Comrade Mugabe also announced that youth will receive vocational and military training in centers that are being established by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Recreation. He said the formation of the people's defense forces is purely for defensive purposes. The prime minister said these units will help safeguard Zimbabwe's sovereignty and integrity since the country has internal and external enemies.